



STEPHEN HAWKING

Is everything we do preordained?

Science and free will, page 16



ROCKING THE BOAT

Hi-tech revolution in the pop industry

Special report, page 10



NORMAN PAINTING

Phil Archer thanks The Times doctor

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THE TIMES

No. 64,772

TUESDAY OCTOBER 12 1993

Clarke targets building projects

Trade figures spark fears for recovery

By Philip Bassett and Philip Webster

FALLING exports to recession-hit Europe and a rise in factory gate prices yesterday added to fears about the strength of Britain's economic recovery. A business survey said it may be running out of steam, and a widening of the trade gap is expected in the coming months.

The figures emerged as Kenneth Clarke began a sustained effort to slash billions of pounds from Whitehall budgets, prompting further worries that the construction industry, so vital to the recovery, could be badly hit.

The Chancellor is seeking big savings in road, school and hospital building programmes as the government tries to remain within its £253.6 billion spending target

Further cuts in the defence and transport department budgets seem likely when the cabinet's spending committee reports later this month

while fulfilling its promises to improve health, education, law and order and social security provision — including help for those worst hit by the imposition of VAT on fuel.

With the sharp rise in the underlying rate of price increases emphasising the need for continued vigilance over inflation, Mr Clarke will be taking the toughest possible line in talks with fellow ministers. He has already admitted that there is "blood on the floor" of the cabinet's EDX spending committee.

Malcolm Rifkind is understood to have said that he will have to ask for a full-scale defence review if the Treasury insists on the cuts it is proposing, and John McGregor's road programme is also thought to be under threat. Housing and regeneration programmes, protected last year to boost the recovery, may also be endangered, further worrying a housing industry already concerned by speculation that mortgage tax relief could be abolished.

The threat to the construction industry came as a report to the EC underlined how some of the wealthiest parts of Britain were in need of regeneration: for the first time, 19 London boroughs and parts of southern England have been listed as in need of EC aid. Help is available for areas suffering industrial decline and low economic growth, and Tim Sainsbury's submission shows that parts of the South are suffering economic decline and unemployment as severe as the worst areas of Wales, Scotland and the North.

City analysts are expecting a third rise in the overall jobless total when the figures are published on Thursday, and while Mr Clarke will concentrate on improving the strength of the recovery in his Budget next month, he accepts that it will be some time before there is any real improvement in unemployment statistics.

Yesterday's figures emphasised the impact of the recession in the rest of Europe on the home economy. Nearly three-fifths of Britain's exports are to the Continent, and the difficulties there led to a £300 million fall in exports between June and July.

The importance of the European market was underlined yesterday in Dun & Bradstreet's survey of 1,700 manufacturing directors, which said that export optimism had declined for the second successive quarter. Firms remained confident of better sales at home, particularly in the run-up to Christmas, but profit margins were threatened as prices were expected to stay the same.

Philip Mellor, B&D's marketing manager, said: "The prospect of a last quarter spending spree accompanied by low or negligible price rises

Job prospects for graduates have reached a 20-year low, with just over a third of those completing courses in 1992 in work at the turn of the year... 7

and very restrained wage increases bodes well for the government's attempts to keep inflation down. However, the expected drop in export demand, affected no doubt by the recession elsewhere in Europe, is worrying and could potentially upset the pace of recovery. This has been fragile and now appears to be in a state of flux.

While B&D sounded optimistic on inflation, ministers will have been worried by yesterday's increase in the news from the factory gate, where the underlying rate of price rises jumped from 2.7 to 3 per cent.

EC aid, page 2
Recession widens, page 25
Anthony Harris, page 25
Tempos, page 29



A creation featuring body armour by French designer Jean-Paul Gaultier, whose spring and summer collection triumphed in Paris yesterday. Iain R. Webb, page 3

Charities unite in battle to defend tax privileges

By Angela Mackay and Christopher Elliott

MANY of Britain's leading charities held emergency meetings yesterday to fight proposals by an independent think-tank that they should be stripped of tax concessions.

Save the Children, the Spastics Society, the Royal National Lifeboat Institute, Barnardo's and others are all opposed to any plans to end their charitable status, which they say would cripple them financially.

The 310-page report, which depicted charity as a medieval concept that had no place in the modern world, was funded by the Home Office and 22 other bodies.

It recommends Britain's voluntary sector of more than 170,000 charities should be divided into "non-profit" organisations which compete for government contracts and "authentic" voluntary bodies whose main role is to campaign for change.

The authors of the report, three former home office officials working for Centre for Research and Innovation in Social Policy and Practice, argued that the formal concept of charity was meaningless and redefinition was necessary to weed out those organisations which obtain tax relief for doubtful reasons.

Organisations targeted include some leading independent schools, such as Eton College, which has charitable status.

Barry Knight, one of the authors, said: "Much of what we know as the voluntary sector has lost its bearings and has forfeited that right [to be taken seriously]. Nothing less than radical reform will succeed in re-

establishing it." The report said it wished to bring Britain in line with other countries in the European Community which do not recognise charitable status as a special category for tax purposes.

VAT and other tax concessions would instead be hinged on performance.

Don Reading of Save the Children said: "We think the idea is totally inappropriate. Successive governments have asked the voluntary sector to do more and more, and now to remove some of the things which give life to some voluntary sector organisations is a totally artificial



Fries: a starting point for debate on future

cial division."

Richard Fries, head of the Charities Commission, a statutory body which would be abolished if the proposals were made law, said it was "a misconception to describe charities as a medieval concept". However, he welcomed the report as a stimulus to debate on the role of charities.

Britain's 170,000 registered charities share an annual gross income of £16 billion.

THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

Is she living in a house near you?



● Last week this girl was squatting in Kensington. What would you do if she moved into your home? Tomorrow, Rachel Kelly checks the proposed changes in the law.

● Britain's newest art gallery opens in Birmingham this week with paintings worth £100 million. Tomorrow, Richard Cork sheds some light on the Gas Hall.

● "If ever there was a miscarriage of justice, here is a tenfold one." Later this week, Bernard Levin reflects on the curious case of Mr John Berry

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US military tactics fail on two fronts

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Clinton administration's deployment of troops abroad ran into trouble in the Caribbean and in Africa yesterday. More than 200 in Haiti were prevented from landing from their ship by dockside gunmen while American diplomats and foreign journalists were threatened.

In Mogadishu, the new American emphasis on diplomacy to settle the crisis left Somalia confused when an overnight demonstration of military might by four-engined AC130 Hercules gunships firing into an area of open ground outside the capital convinced some of the followers of the fugitive warlord Muhammad Farrah Aidid that American intentions were anything but pacific. Leaflets, dropped on the city after Robert Oakley, President Clinton's special envoy to Somalia, had met Ahmed Rage, a well-known critic of General Aidid, said the warlord was "a thug" standing in the way of peace.

The diplomatic mission looked likely to collapse after the first day when members of General Aidid's inner council threatened to abandon their

unilateral ceasefire if Mr Oakley did not make contact with them before he left the country today. A senior Aidid aide said the general's supporters were losing faith in Mr Clinton's offer to start talks about setting up a national transitional council for Somalia later this month in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital.

In Haiti, the plainclothes gunmen, who are backed by Haiti's military and police, said they intended to make Haiti into a "second Somalia". US troops there are part of a 1,600-strong UN force being sent to help rebuild Haiti before the return of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the deposed president, this month. However, his enemies in the military and police are turning increasingly violent.

The Pentagon last week sought to postpone the deployment, which will be completed today, but it was overruled by the State Department. However, the USS Harlan County, an amphibious warship, is off the Haitian coast ready to evacuate the Americans quickly if necessary.

Somalia solution, page 11

Nobel prize awarded to Briton

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

A BRITISH researcher was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine yesterday. Dr Richard Roberts, 50, shares the \$825,000 prize with an American, Dr Philip Sharp, for discovering how genes are arranged within the genetic material DNA.

Dr Roberts, educated at the City of Bath Boys' School and Sheffield University, has worked in America for more than 20 years. He made his discovery in 1977 at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York. Dr Sharp, 49, reached the same unexpected conclusion in the same year, working independently at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Until then it had been assumed that the genes in plants and animals were made up of continuous segments of DNA. Dr Roberts and Dr Sharp showed that, far from being continuous, they are broken up by pieces of DNA with no obvious purpose, like a sentence with

Oxford legal feathers fly in Roman debate

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

NOT since the days of the great Beowulf debate have the high tables at Oxford University been so roused.

Eight centuries of tradition were swept aside yesterday as Roman law ceased to be a compulsory subject for undergraduate lawyers for the first time since 1180.

The change, forced through by young dons after a narrow

vote last year, has split the law faculty. But tradition dies hard at Oxford and students may yet vote with their feet to save the course, following in the footsteps of their counterparts in the English faculty who two years ago threw out proposals by young dons to make the study of Beowulf optional.

The law faculty's new introductory course has a sociological bent, with Roman law remaining as an option. However, Romanists, who occupy several of the senior posts, argue that their subject offers an essential grounding in legal principles. Oxford is one of the few English universities still teaching Roman law and the subject could be further downgraded if students shunned it.

When the first lectures of the new academic year took place yesterday, however, undergraduates appeared to favour the classical option. They do not have to commit themselves until after Christmas, but about 150 of the 250 first-year students opted for Roman law.

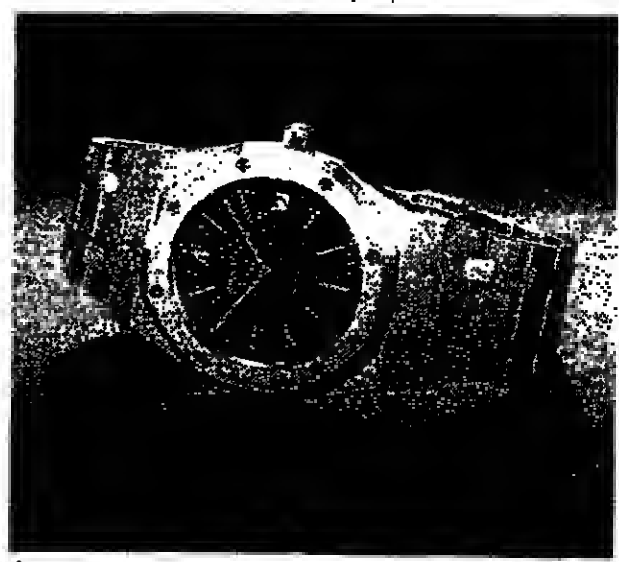


Starting today: Queen's Counsel — a weekly strip cartoon on the law and lawyers. Page 35

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AP AUDEMARS PIGUET

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BBC scraps Radio 5 for 24-hour news and sports service

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BBC Radio 5 is to be replaced with a 24-hour news and sports service, after the board of governors last night ordered a reorganisation that will affect millions of listeners to several channels.

The decision represents a victory for listeners to Radio 4 who have led a vigorous and highly effective public relations campaign to thwart the corporation's original plans to place a 24-hour news service on Radio 4's long-wave frequency. It deals a severe blow to the rival campaign to save Radio 5.

Nick MacKinnon, founder of the Save Radio 4 Long Wave campaign, welcomed the news as a "gleeful occasion" for listeners to Radio 4, but said he now intended to sue the BBC governors for breaching a promise made last October not to change the basic content of the station's long-wave broadcasts.

In addition to scrapping Radio 5 and drastically reducing children's programmes from approximately 375 to 75 hours a year, the changes agreed unanimously by the governors yesterday include moving *Test Match Special*, currently on Radio 3, and some Open University and education programmes, now on Radio 5, to Radio 4 long wave.

The governors' decision, which was reached at a special meeting yesterday afternoon with the BBC board of management, aims to end more than 18 months of strife at the corporation brought about by its determination to launch a 24-hour news service despite widespread opposition from listeners.

The issue is of particular importance to the BBC as the corporation is in the midst of negotiations with the government about the renewal of its

A leading campaigner for Radio 4 long wave is to sue the corporation, accusing it of breaking commitments to licence-payers

royal charter, which expires in 1996.

Marmaduke Hussey, the chairman of the corporation, said that the new station heralded a fresh concept in British radio: "The marriage of news and sport brings together two of the BBC's strongest assets."

John Birt, the BBC's director-general, said that the decision was based on extensive

A NEW satellite television channel catering specifically for transvestites is to be launched in Britain in December. It will feature uncensored sex shows from Thailand, feature films, discussion programmes and phone-ins.

The station, to be called Transformation, and which is promoting itself under the slogan "TVs on TV", will be closely monitored by television watchdogs in the UK.

Stephanie Anne Lloyd, the channel's founder, who had a sex change 11 years ago and runs a chain of six shops for transvestites in the UK, is aiming for a target audience of 25,000 viewers in Britain and 50,000 in Germany.

research. "This will bring new listeners to the BBC and extend choice for all licence-payers," Mr Birt said.

The new service will not, as had been originally planned, carry heavyweight news programmes such as Radio 4's *Today* programme, but will be aimed at 25 to 44-year-olds and listeners in the C and D socio-economic groups — clerical and manual workers — who are currently not well

served by Radio 4. It is unclear how the new service will deal with the clashes that will arise when important sporting events coincide with breaking news stories.

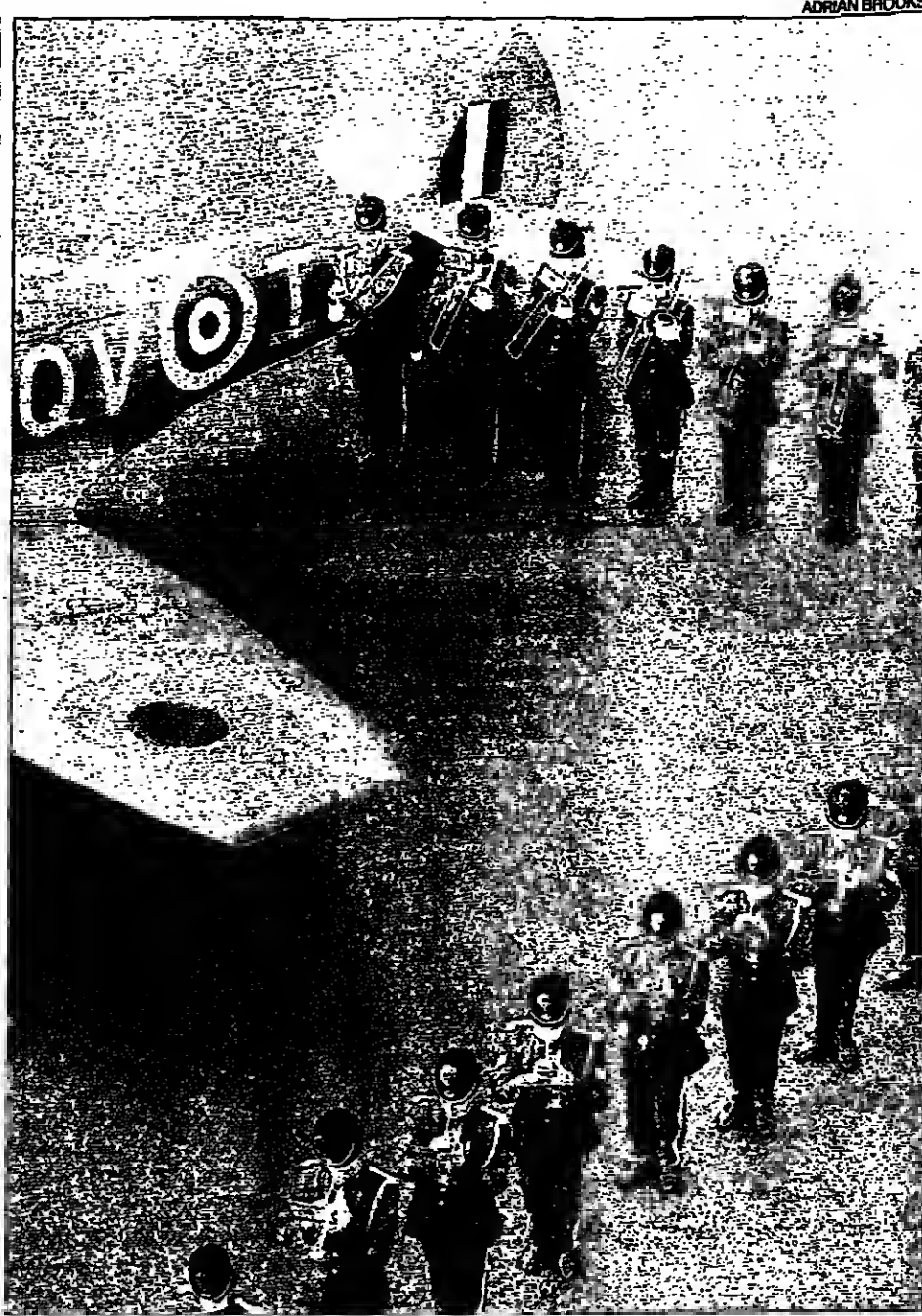
The changes are bound, however, to stir further public opposition, not least from the Save Radio 4 Long Wave campaign. Led by a group of articulate activists, the campaign is the most powerful audience lobby ever to tackle the BBC. It has succeeded by enlisting the support of at least 30,000 listeners and many upmarket celebrities, including Sir John Gielgud, Alan Ayckbourn, Sir George Solti and the Prince of Wales.

Mr MacKinnon said: "It is unacceptable for the BBC to use Radio 4's long wave frequency as a dumping ground for all the services made homeless by the new news and sports service, when they made a specific public promise last year that Radio 4 long wave would meet the listeners' needs."

He now intends to sue the governors for a refund of that part of his licence that funds Radio 4, approximately £2.50. It is the first time that the BBC has been sued by a member of its audience for failing to live up to promised services, as neither the corporation's charter nor the television licence itself commit the BBC to provide any specific services.

At the heart of the debate is the poor quality of radio reception in certain areas. Restricting Radio 4 to its FM frequency would have prevented it being heard by about two million listeners in Britain and continental Europe.

Law, page 35



The Central Band of the RAF tuning up on the parade square at Uxbridge, west London, yesterday for their British tour this month. Concerts in eight cities and towns will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Royal Air Force

Carey urges end to 'corrosive' criticism of political leaders

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday called for an end to the "unrelenting, corrosive criticism" of Britain's political leaders. It was, Dr George Carey said, undermining their authority.

Speaking in Edinburgh, he said that in the past two months there had been much criticism of the leadership of John Major and John Smith.

"That kind of criticism, when passed in unrelenting form, can convey the idea that we are a totally mean-spirited and doubting nation... In a democratic society we have to encourage leadership, we have to support leadership," he said.

Dr Carey has been the guest of Dr James Weatherhead, moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. He is the first Archbishop of Canterbury to make such an official visit.

Dr Carey said that his call for an end to the criticism of

party leaders did not mean that people had to remain uncritical of government and politicians. "We should use criticism to reflect that which we believe in rather than that type of corrosive criticism which can undermine authority," he said.

He added that the Church had a right to become involved in politics and to speak out on policies.

He went on to voice some criticism of the home secretary's speech at the Conservative party conference on single parents.

"Let's not have a society where we start apportioning blame. Many of these girls need our help and support because if you have young children you can't get out and get a job."

The archbishop said he had

talked to many families with problems and had recently met three young Birmingham mothers who had been desert-

ed by their boy friends. "I saw something of their anguish. We must not beat them with big sticks."

Last night, John Redwood, the Welsh Secretary, told BBC Television: "There are a lot of single mothers who deserve our co-operation and support. But I hope the archbishop agrees with me that there is a small minority who need encouraging to form stable relationships before they have children."

□ The Very Rev David Standfield, the provost of Portsmouth who is to be the new Bishop of Salisbury, called yesterday for higher taxes and condemned the "selfish" goals of the Tory party.

Preaching at Portsmouth Cathedral, he described the party conference at Blackpool as a "pantomime". He said he would readily accept a lower standard of living "in order that others may simply live".

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police seize couple in hunt for bombers

Detectives investigating the recent series of explosions in the capital were last night questioning a man and a woman seized by armed police yesterday at their home in Neasden, north London.

Police were lying in wait when a young man arrived at his rented flat in an old red Ford Fiesta. As he looked for a parking place, a marked police car drove across the front of the Fiesta, other vehicles pulled up behind and armed plainclothes officers ordered the driver out of his car. A secretary working at a nearby estate agents said that she saw a woman brought down from the flat with a blanket over her head.

Four men arrested over the weekend were still being held at Paddington Green police station, central London. All five men are Irish. The arrests follow an intelligence and surveillance operation by Scotland Yard and M15. The attacks have included explosions in Finchley Road, Highgate, West Hampstead and Kilburn.

Lockerbie stalemate

The Foreign Office yesterday rejected a request by the Libyan lawyers of the two men accused of the Lockerbie bombing for a meeting with Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary. A spokesman said the Foreign Office had "nothing to discuss" and that any legal matter could be discussed with the Scottish legal authorities. Britain has dismissed the latest Libyan requests as an attempt to play for time, and insists that tougher UN sanctions should go ahead on schedule. Tripoli appealed yesterday to the UN secretary-general to suggest a solution to break the stalemate.

Murder couple jailed

A man and woman were jailed for life yesterday for a three-year-old murder solved after a new technique built a picture of the victim's features. Michael Doherty and Susan McGregor, both 27, of Kilburn, north London, were found guilty at the Old Bailey of murdering Sheila Taylor, 62, an artist. In 1989 a post-mortem examination on Miss Taylor concluded she died from a heart attack. Last year, after new information, another examination ruled she had been strangled. A forensic pathologist reproduced her features from her skull and several people came forward.

Michelangelo on hold

The export of Michelangelo's drawing *The Holy Family with the Infant St John the Baptist* to an American museum was stopped by the national heritage secretary, Peter Brooke, yesterday. Mr Brooke said no export licence would be granted for the drawing, bought at Christie's in July by the Getty Museum in Malibu, California, before November 4. The deferral might then be extended another five months to allow campaigners who want the picture to remain in Britain to match the £4,469,750 price the museum agreed to pay. The drawing had not been seen in public since 1836.

Runaway boy caught

A boy aged 13 described by police as a "crime wave all on his own" was questioned yesterday after being recaptured. The boy had been on the run since Friday, when police went to arrest him at his home in Leeds with a social services order for him to be locked up. He is due to appear before a youth court in connection with burglaries and car crime.

Mugger jailed for death

Relatives of a 72-year-old woman killed by a mugger wanting money for drugs expressed anger yesterday at the five-year sentence imposed by an Old Bailey judge. Constance Brown was knocked down in Streatham, south London, by Anthony Small, 19, and died later from her injuries. Small pleaded guilty to manslaughter and robbery.

Bad back halts pop case

A barrister's backache has delayed an unprecedented legal challenge to the recording industry from George Michael, the rock star, whose contract dispute with Sony was re-listed for the High Court next Monday. The full hearing is expected to last at least two months, at a cost of hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Rock revolution, page 10

Andy Stewart dies



Andy Stewart, the Scottish entertainer, left, died at his home in Arbroath yesterday aged 59. Mr Stewart, a father of six, had been suffering from a heart condition. New year in Scotland was not complete without a rendition by him of the two songs that made him famous, "Scottish Soldier" and "Donald Where's Your Troopers", the latter staying in the top ten for 38 weeks after its re-release in 1989.

Lord Ashley cheered

Lord Ashley of Stoke, who has had his hearing restored after 25 years of deafness, was loudly cheered when he rose to speak in the House of Lords yesterday. Lord Cranborne, a junior defence minister, congratulated the former Labour MP on the remarkable results of a recent operation for a cochlear implant.

Wettest October looms

Britain is heading for the wettest October since records began with the average monthly rainfall already fallen in the first 11 days. In the first week of October east Scotland had six times its average and London, with 3in, nearly five times. Across most of the country the totals were between two and three times the norm.

Forecast, page 24

MacGregor fights to head off rail rebels

By JILL SHERMAN AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

JOHN MacGregor, the transport secretary, is mounting a concerted offensive over the next three weeks to head off a backbench rebellion on the rail privatisation bill.

Mr MacGregor and other transport ministers will meet the leading rebels next week to try to persuade them to back the government's plans when the bill returns to the Commons early next month.

He is also meeting Bob Reid, chairman of British Rail, and other rail managers who are encouraging MPs to back a Lords amendment, carried in July, allowing BR to bid for passenger franchises.

Mr MacGregor was warned yesterday that opposition had hardened and that he faced a knife-edge vote if the government refused to accept or compromise on the amendment. The rebels claim that at least ten MPs are prepared to vote against the government.

enough to overturn its majority of 17.

Many MPs, particularly in commuter areas, have had numerous complaints about rail privatisation. Sir Rhodes Boyson, MP for Brent North, said: "The government would be advised to accept the Lords amendment. There is no enthusiasm for rail privatisation in my constituency."

Last night, however, several rebels were backing away from open conflict in advance of next week's meeting, hoping that a deal could be reached.

"The government has promised to consider the Lords amendment and we will respect that until next week," one potential rebel said.

Ministers are discounting reports that as many as 21 MPs are prepared to defy the government on the franchise amendment. However, they are now working on options to avert the possibility of defeat.

Britain asks EC to ease pain of poverty

By MICHAEL DINES
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is seeking European Community aid for areas that were once among the richest parts of the country.

Tim Sainsbury, the industry minister, announced a list yesterday containing all or part of 19 London boroughs and swaths of the Home Counties including all of Kent. He said that urban areas suffering industrial dereliction and high unemployment, rural areas facing low economic growth, and fishing towns and regions hit by pit closures, could soon qualify

for EC aid worth more than £500 million. Decisions on which areas should qualify for EC aid are expected to be made by the European Commission in November, enabling local authorities to apply for grants to help urban and rural development schemes from January.

If the EC approves Britain's request, all parts of the London boroughs of Islington, Tower Hamlets, Newham and Hackney will be eligible for EC economic aid. Parts of the boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Bexley, Camden, Enfield, Greenwich, Haringey, Havering, Lambeth, Lew-

isham, Southwark, Waltham Forest, Brent, and selected wards in Ealing, Hammer-smith and Fulham, and Kensington and Chelsea, will also be eligible.

The entire East Thames corridor, including Dartford, Gravesham, Rochester-upon-Medway, Gillingham, Thurrock and all of Kent, has been included in Britain's submission of areas needing aid. Areas of Suffolk, Norfolk, East Sussex, Hampshire, Avon, Dorset, Bedfordshire, Devon and Cornwall, and the Isle of Wight, are also on the list.

Fishing ports on the list include Brixham in Devon, Bridlington in Humberside, Scarborough and Whitby in North Yorkshire, and the ports along the Moray coast in Grampian as far as Peterhead. Help is also being sought for areas hit by pit closures and the loss of traditional local industries, such as the shipyard run down at Barrow-in-Furness.

Most of the urban and rural areas already receiving EC economic aid remain the same. The main exceptions are Merseyside and the Highlands and Islands, which now qualify for aid designed to help whole regions lagging behind in development.

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Jealous husband is jailed for killing daughter by mistake

By Nicholas Watt

A FATHER was jailed for six years for the manslaughter of his four-year-old daughter and the attempted murder of his estranged wife yesterday after he ran over them in his car.

Manchester Crown Court was told that Everill Laud, 52, a factory machinist, tried to murder his wife Pat, 36, who had left him after violent outbursts, because he suspected her of being unfaithful. He admitted both charges.

Sentencing him to two concurrent six-year sentences, Mr Justice Allott told Laud: "This appalling tragedy stems from your obsessive, morbid jealousy. Without any rational belief you came to the conclusion your wife was unfaithful and as a result you drove your car deliberately at her intending to kill her."

"I am sure that you, above all, know it wasn't your wife you killed, but your beloved daughter."

Sir Frederick Lawton, a retired Lord Justice of Appeal, last night criticised the sentence imposed on Laud. "It is a bit on the lenient side," he said. "You always get a discount for a guilty plea and he should have got about eight to ten years."

Sir Frederick said the sentence highlighted inconsistent sentencing in Britain's courts. "There is inevitably an inconsistency in sentencing. A great

deal depends on the emotional temperature of the court."

Mrs Laud, still on crutches, sat in court yesterday as details of her daughter Sandra's death were recounted. Geoffrey Tattersall QC, prosecuting, said that Mrs Laud saw her husband in his car at a car park near their home in Old Trafford, Manchester, last October. Laud had just appeared before a court on an assault charge.

He had ordered them to get in the car, but Mrs Laud had refused and walked away. He then drove towards her "consuming by a mixture of jealousy and anger", the court was told. Laud accelerated into them, narrowly missing his stepson, but hitting his wife and daughter, who were holding hands.

Sandra died from multiple injuries to the skull, brain and abdomen, while Mrs Laud received skull, rib and hip fractures.

While at the scene Laud broke down shouting: "Oh Jesus, what have I done. My little girl."

David Turner QC, defending, said that the case had all the elements of a Greek tragedy. "By his own hand he killed his only daughter and his life has been wrecked by what happened."

The court was told that the couple's marriage had been violent because Laud was

convinced his wife was having an affair, despite her protests of innocence. They separated when Laud assaulted his wife after refusing to let her take Sandra and his adopted son, Omar, 6, on a trip.

He was charged with assault and Mrs Laud took the children away from him. She obtained a county court injunction ordering Laud to leave them alone, but he repeatedly pursued his wife begging her to return.

She lived in constant fear of her husband and on the afternoon last October, after picking up the children from school, she spotted him in his car.

Mr Turner said: "On the day of the offences he was seeking a reconciliation. Whatever his motivation the Crown accepts he was suffering from an abnormality of mind which substantially impaired his mental responsibility."

He said that Laud's world had collapsed after his wife left him. "He had started a young family for the first time and she motivated him to buy a house," Mr Turner said. "He lived at this house and they had all the material things that they had worked for."

"He was convinced she was having an affair with her employer. It was obviously a deluded belief and a delusion of obsessive jealousy."



Creations by France's Jean-Paul Gaultier, left, and Germany's Karl Lagerfeld, centre and right, in Paris

Fashion's bright son rises in the East

FROM IAN R. WEBB IN PARIS

AS THE first models bustled through the corridors of Gallerie Vivienne, dressed in stretched T-shirts draped with robes covered by tattoo designs, the audience gasped with delight.

Jean-Paul Gaultier achieved another triumph when he unveiled his 1994 spring and summer collection yesterday. He is a master of the eclectic patchwork of plundered references, mixed with a large measure of humour, and this season he drew from the East. Sari-style trousers worn with knitted T-shirts printed with oriental script were bound about the bosom with even more colourful cloth.

A tailored frock coat which fluted out at the hem was an important piece, coming in all manner of fabrics and colours. At first it appeared soberly in black and natural rough linens, but variations included several pairs of old denim jeans pulled apart and reassembled, and a glamorous version in sky-blue and copper-shot organza.

Gaultier nodded to the other main theme of the season, punk. Pleated miniskirts, dresses and jackets with bondage-style lacing, zips and studs were given new life. He even used Joan of Arc as the inspiration for sackcloth and ashes dresses with accessories of gleaming silver armour.

Venezuelan aged 60 tops Everest age record

By Lin Jenkins

RAMON Blanco, a 60-year-old Venezuelan violin maker, has become the oldest man to conquer Everest, beating the previous record by five years.

Details of his achievement came as the death was announced of Gary Ball, the New Zealand mountaineer, who pioneered guided tours of Mount Everest. He died after developing altitude sickness while close to the 26,795ft summit of Mount Dhaulagiri in the Himalayas, the world's seventh highest mountain.

Mr Ball, 40, was brought lower down the mountain by his longtime climbing partner Rob Hall, but despite medical treatment died from pulmonary oedema. Hall, assisted by a sherpa and two Japanese climbers, lowered Mr Ball's body into a deep crevasse just above base camp. "Letting go of that rope was one of the most difficult things I've ever had to do," Mr Hall said.

Sr Blanco, who reached the summit on October 7, beat the record set by the American Dick Bass in 1985 when he was 55. Also among the party to climb Everest was Ginette Harrison, a doctor, who became the second British woman to conquer the mountain. Rebecca Stephens made the climb in May.



Harrison: reached Everest summit

Gibraltar court told of Newall remorse

FROM RICHARD FORD IN GIBRALTAR

A FORMER Army officer broke down and wept in front of his girl friend as he unburdened himself of the remorse he felt over the killings of his parents, a court in Gibraltar was told yesterday.

Roderick Newall, 28, was alleged to have opened his heart to the Brazilian divorcee after reading a passage from a book by Herman Hesse that described the grief and horror of death and the ensuing guilt.

Desmond de Silva QC, for the prosecution, told the court: "He spoke in terms of regret, of being responsible for the killings and that it was only after the murder that he had understood how very much he loved his parents were with each other. He spoke of the pain and burden of his guilt."

He said that after seeing the film *Cape Fear* while in Florida, Mr Newall, a former lieutenant in The Royal Green Jackets, allegedly told Helena Pado that "it was good to live in fear."

Mr de Silva added: "Because of his inner torment,

Helena Pado suggested that he see a psychiatrist. But he said he could not do that but he would have her to help him come to terms with the murder and his own guilt."

The Crown is applying for Mr Newall to be extradited to Jersey to stand trial for the murders there of his father, Nicholas, 56, and mother, Elizabeth, 47, in October 1987. His brother Mark, 26, an international financier, is in custody in Jersey charged with the murders.

The Crown claims that Mr Newall's many admissions of guilt, coupled with other evidence, means there is a case for him to answer.

Mr and Mrs Newall were last seen as they and their sons dined at a restaurant on Jersey to celebrate Mrs Newall's forthcoming birthday. The family had earlier shared two bottles of champagne at the couple's £200,000 bungalow in Clos de l'Antiquaire at Saint Brelade.

The Newalls' bodies have never been found.

Actor thanks Times doctor for heart tip

By Lucy Berrington

PHIL Archer was back in Ambridge yesterday after the actor who plays him had his life changed by Thomas Stuttaford, the *Times* doctor.

Last night's episode of *The Archers* saw the farmer's return after a two-month trip to Australia, written into the BBC Radio 4 series so that Norman Painting, who plays Phil, could have treatment that ended 11 years of heart problems. He is one of two remaining founder members of the cast. *The Archers* was first broadcast in 1951.

Mr Painting had been "tired, breathless and distressed" since suffering four heart attacks and a cardiac arrest in 1982. Dr Stuttaford's article outlined the use of ACE

inhibitors, a group of drugs that counteract the enzymes causing the constriction of blood vessels. It prompted Mr Painting to approach Professor Peter Sleight, at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, who prescribed the treatment.

"Within two weeks I felt better than I'd felt in years," Mr Painting said yesterday. "In January I was finding it difficult to walk more than a hundred yards. Now I am striding all over the place."

Mr Painting has contacted Dr Stuttaford to thank him. He told him: "I go around with a wedge of copies of your piece, handing it out to anyone who has heart problems."

Body and mind, page 17

Thief has 26 years to pay fine

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

A PETTY criminal has been given 26 years to pay off £4,000 in fines and compensation at £3 a week.

The decision by Cardiff magistrates to allow Philip Williams until 2019 to settle his debt — thought to be a record length of time — has prompted outrage from his victims. Williams, now 22, will be 48 by the time he finishes paying. The normal time limit applied for a fine is 12 months. In exceptional circumstances, offenders are allowed up to three years to pay compensation.

Williams, who lives with his parents in a council house at Tremorfa, Cardiff, receives £30 a week social security benefit. He pleaded poverty when he appeared before the court for failing to pay his fines. He was warned that he would face 45 days in jail, but he offered to pay £3 a week.

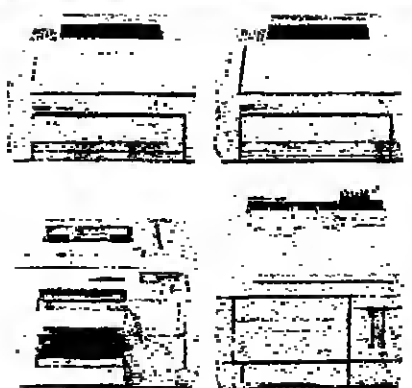
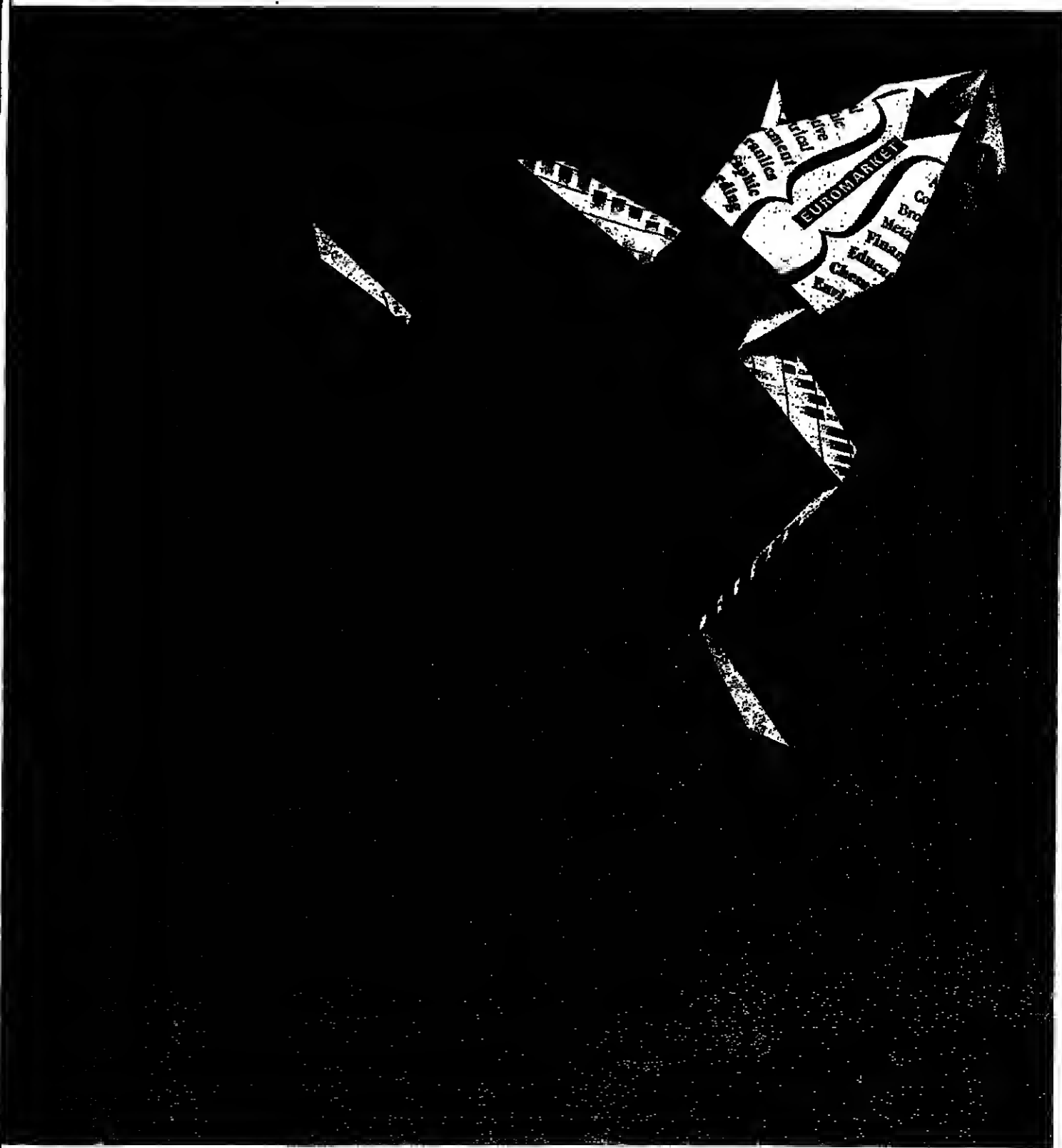
William Budd, managing director of Budd Electrical Sales in Roath, Cardiff, was awarded £1,000 compensation against Williams more than two years ago after a theft from his store. He has received nothing so far. Williams has since incurred several other penalties with convictions for deception, theft, and threatening behaviour.

Mr Budd said: "Criminals are just laughing at their victims, the police and the courts when this sort of sentence is doled out. This man's cheek just astounds me. What the courts should do is to put him in prison until he pays off the fines."

Williams said: "I think the magistrates got it right. I haven't had a conviction for two years and I fully intend paying off all my fines."

No official from Cardiff city magistrates' court was available for comment yesterday.

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مكتبة الامم

Secret financial deal may save Churchill's archive

By IAN MURRAY

THE Chartwell Trust has almost completed a delicate financial deal to keep Winston Churchill's vast collection of private and public papers from being sold to foreign institutions after a three-year battle to save the archive.

Details of the deal remain a closely guarded secret while negotiations continue between the trust, the Churchill family and the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

Ian Montrose, a London solicitor who is one of the two trustees, said: "I am obliged to stonewall any questions about what is happening. But any stories saying the papers are going to America are complete lies and not based on any facts."

He and his fellow trustee, Peregrine Churchill, nephew of the wartime leader, originally put the collection up for sale to raise money for the statesman's heirs, including his grandson, Winston. Peregrine Churchill said yesterday he was unable to comment.

■ From a tear-stained letter as a schoolboy to his "finest hour" speech: Churchill's papers may yet be saved for the nation

"The negotiations are delicate, but they have been like that for years."

The trust is obliged to obtain as much money as possible for the papers and that could most easily be done by selling them at auction, where they would attract many overseas bidders.

Sotheby's estimates the contents of just 125 of the 1,200 file boxes in the collection could raise about £5 million. If the collection were sold as one lot it could fetch up to £50 million. The trust has been trying to assemble a collection of private and public British papers to put up the funds.

The National Heritage Memorial Fund is optimistic that it can buy the collection, and believes the Churchill family would accept a lower price rather than see the papers go abroad. Even if the papers

went to a foreign buyer, they would not be given an immediate export licence. The fund expects a public appeal for donations would raise the necessary amount.

There is considerable concern about the impending sale at Churchill College, Cambridge, where the collection is kept in a custom-built archive. "We are optimistic of a deal being done, but the uncertainty has been very unsettling," said Michael Allen, the bursar.

"There is a great deal of concern about this at the very highest level. We believe there would be a great deal of public hostility to the sale."

The trust's papers include everything Churchill wrote from his school days to his defeat in the 1945 election. The papers from that date to the end of his life were donated to

the college by his widow and are not for sale.

"The college believes that it is in everybody's interest to keep them all together. There cannot be any other comparable collection of social and political documents of our age," Mr Allen said.

Alan Kucia, the collection's archivist, said: "I do not know if Churchill had an early conviction of his greatness, but he kept everything that other people would normally throw away. There is a tear-stained letter to his mother when he was a homesick schoolboy of ten. There are all the household accounts: we can see exactly how much he spent on cigars and booze."

"Some of the most interesting papers are the drafts of his wartime speeches because they show his thought processes. They were typed out in very large typescript and then full of his own handwritten annotations in different coloured inks. His 'finest hour' speech is full of them."

Leading article, page 19

Victim of Sams hugs his wife

STEPHANIE Slater yesterday met the wife of the man who held her captive for eight days.

Miss Slater, 26, was moved by hearing Teena Sams apologise on television to her husband's victims and rang the BBC studios near her Birmingham home. The two women then appeared together on BBC's *Good Morning with Anne and Nick*, and hugged.

Miss Slater said: "I just wanted to reassure her that I believe that she had nothing to do with it and she's not to blame." As Mrs Sams wiped away tears, Miss Slater added: "She's suffered as much as I have. My circumstance was different because Michael Sams held me hostage. But there's also torture of the mind, which Teena must have gone through." Sams was jailed for life in July for kidnapping Miss Slater and murdering Julie Dart.

Mrs Sams, 44, who is filing for divorce, said: "I thank God that she believes me. Today is the best day of my life."



Teena Sams, left, wife of the kidnapper Michael Sams, with Stephanie Slater

Bae peace protester took blood into factory

A PEACE protester prayed and sang songs as he caused £90,000 damage to equipment at a British Aerospace plant, a court was told yesterday.

Chris Cole, 30, told the jury at Luton Crown Court that BAE weapons caused death and destruction around the world. When he broke into the plant at Stevenage, Hertfordshire, in the early hours of January 6 this year, he wanted to draw the workers' attention to what they were doing.

Cole, of Oxford, a member of Swords into Ploughshares, denies causing criminal damage.

He said he chose Stevenage because the plant manufactured the nose cones for aircraft and missiles and was at "the sharp end" of the weapons system.

After breaking into the complex, he used a crowbar and household tools and a small amount of human blood in a baby's bottle.

He told the jury that BAE were "very loathe to think about blood. They produce brochures with glossy pictures of missiles taking off and never show what happens. I wanted to show that this was a bloody business."

In a computer room, he poured blood on to a keyboard and pinned up pictures of children playing amid bomb damage in Beirut.

Finally, he went to a hangar where the nose cones were manufactured. "I hammered on a nose cone and wrote 'Love not War'."

The case continues.

Dutch to deport 30 football hooligans

By JOHN GOODBODY
SPORTS NEWS
CORRESPONDENT

THIRTY English football fans were being deported under police escort from Holland last night after a night of drunkenness and violence in Amsterdam ahead of tomorrow's vital World Cup clash.

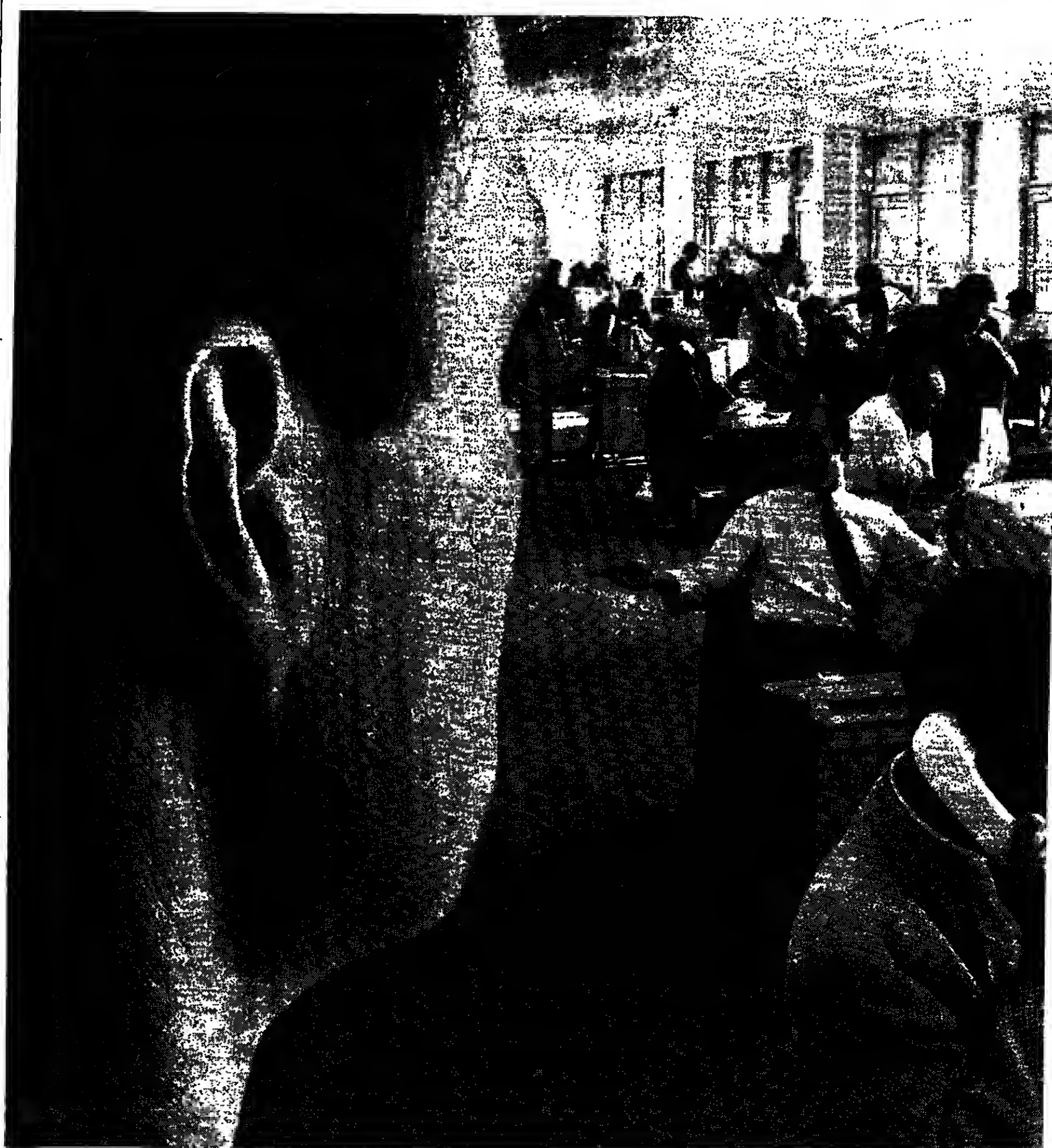
Thirty-nine England fans were arrested after up to 50 started attacking passers-by near the city's red-light district. Eight will appear before a Dutch public prosecutor on assault charges tomorrow or Thursday and will be held in police cells until then. One fan was released without charge.

The eight to be detained were arrested at around 1am for allegedly kicking and beating a passerby. They are also alleged to have threatened others with a knife. Another four fans were arrested for drunkenness.

About 5,000 England fans are expected in Rotterdam for the World Cup qualifying match and Dutch authorities, fearing clashes with their own breed of hooligan, have promised a strict policy on troublemakers.

They have said that English hooligans will face £100 on-the-spot fines and special court hearings. Offenders will not be deported until they have been tried, a policy which the British government has always urged on its European counterparts.

David Miller, page 46
England fly out, page 48



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MARGARET THATCHER
The Downing Street Years

A unique opportunity to hear the former prime minister and question her on her career

THE publication next month of the first volume of Margaret Thatcher's memoirs, the inside story of her 11½ years as Britain's first woman prime minister, will be the biggest publishing event of 1993.

The Times, in co-operation with Dillons the Bookstore, is to stage two forums, one in London and another in Leeds, at which Lady Thatcher will speak about her Downing Street years - a unique opportunity for Times readers to hear and question the greatest prime minister since Churchill.

The London forum, chaired by Jeffrey Archer, will be at the Barbican Centre on Tuesday, October 19. The Leeds forum, chaired by Richard Whiteley, is at Leeds Town Hall on Wednesday, October 27. Both start at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £30, which includes a copy of *The Downing Street Years* (HarperCollins, £25).

■ To book tickets, write to *The Times* Dillons Forum, enclosing your name, address and a cheque for the enclosing amount. For the London forum, send your application to the Barbican Box Office, Silk Street, application to the Barbican Box Office, Silk Street, application to the Barbican Box Office, Silk Street, application to the Barbican Box Office, Silk Street.

■ Credit cardholders can book with the Barbican Centre on 071-638 8891, or the Leeds branch of Dillons the Bookstore on 0532 347108.

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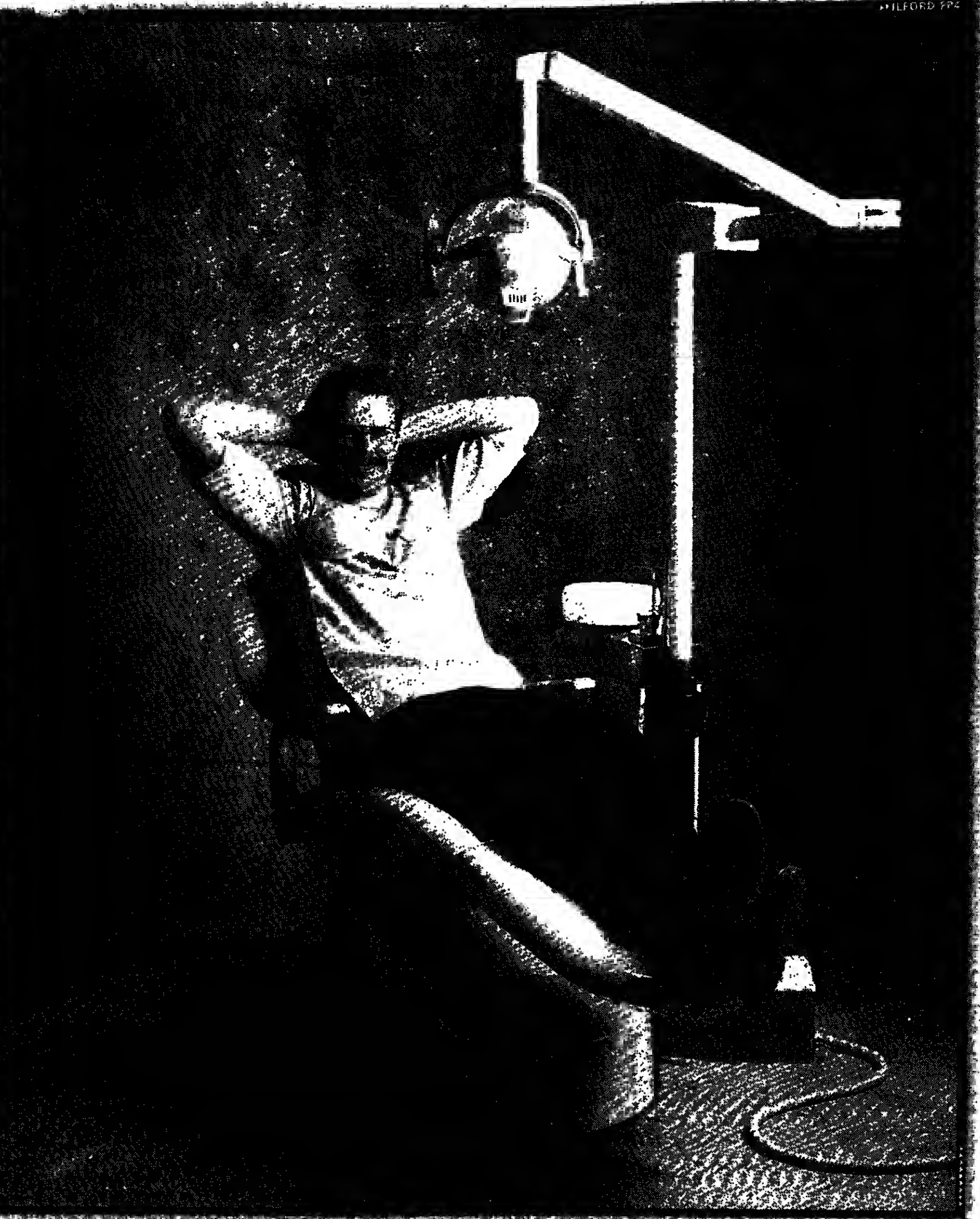
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Graduates confront worst employment hopes for 20 years

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

EMPLOYMENT prospects for graduates have reached a 20-year low, according to figures published yesterday.

Little more than a third of those graduating in 1992 were known to be in permanent employment by the turn of the year. Fewer than 42 per cent of those still in contact with college careers officers had jobs.

The recession and the increase in those emerging from degree courses have produced three years of worsening conditions in the graduate labour market. An unemployment rate of 5.5 per cent in 1988-9 had more than doubled to 12.9 per cent by the end of last year.

The jobless figure had been expected to rise even further, but record numbers doing research or training kept the total down. In the traditional universities, almost 30 per cent took this route, according to yesterday's report from the Central Services Unit. The true

unemployment rate may be much higher than yesterday's figures suggest because universities and colleges had lost contact with one in eight of their 148,000 graduates by the time the statistics were compiled. In the new universities, known unemployment reached almost 17 per cent, but as many again were unaccounted for.

Although all sectors of higher education produced more graduates in 1992, the former polytechnics registered a 15 per cent increase. In four years, the total numbers looking for work or involved in further study had risen by more than 26,000.

Tom Frank, the chairman of the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services, said the outlook for graduates was only now beginning to improve. "Some of the bigger companies are cautiously dipping a toe back in the water, and there is quite an upsurge of small to medium-size com-

panies coming to their local institutions with vacancies," Mr Frank said.

Roly Cockman, of the Association of Graduate Recruiters, said that the employment picture was still patchy. "There is no doubt that graduates still face strong competition for jobs, but there is some evidence that things are improving."

Last year's figures again showed more women than men going straight into jobs: 10.6 per cent of female graduates were believed to be unemployed at the turn of the year, compared with more than 15 per cent of their male counterparts.

The report also highlights the rising popularity of teacher training, which attracted 15 per cent more graduates in 1992 than 1991.

First Destination Statistics of 1992 Graduates (ES), Central Services Unit, Armstrong House, Oxford Road, Manchester M1 7ED.



Lord Harris, chairman of Forest, after delivering a petition to Mrs Bottomley

Smokers demand equal treatment

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

PEOPLE who smoke, drink and eat too much, and have unsafe sex, must be entitled to the same treatment on the NHS as everyone else, a group of peers, doctors and lawyers demanded yesterday.

Recent cases in which smokers have been denied treatment until they give up the habit were condemned by the group, which said an unhealthy lifestyle should never be a bar to treatment.

In the latest case, a 22-year-old woman from Wigan had an operation for infertility cancelled at the last moment after the surgeon discovered she had not stopped smoking.

Launching a campaign to end discrimination by doctors against such patients, Lord Harris of High Cross, chairman of Forest (Freedom Organisation for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco), demanded an assurance from Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, that the "freely chosen lifestyle of patients is an unacceptable means of determining eligibility for medical tests and treatment".

Medical organisations dismissed the allegations of discrimination, claiming patients were denied treatment only if

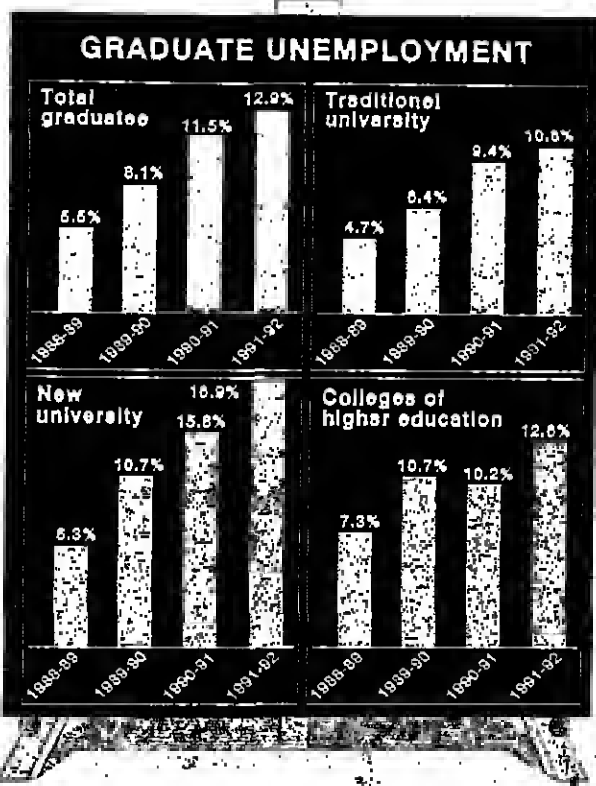
their smoking made it too risky. Being overweight or having a heavy cold could similarly prevent surgery going ahead if the risks were judged too great.

However, Mrs Bottomley said treatment was a matter of professional judgment, but doctors must recognise that the NHS "is and must remain a service available to all solely on the basis of clinical need".

A survey by the British Medical Association's News Review, published last week, found one in four junior doctors said smokers and drinkers should be given lower priority for treatment.

Lord Stoddart, a Labour peer, said: "If a lifestyle police are successful with this they will be looking for new areas to police." He cited drinkers, homosexuals, the overweight and those who sustained sports injuries as future targets.

A spokeswoman for the British Medical Association said: "A doctor may judge that it is better for a patient who is a smoker not to have surgery because the risks outweigh the benefits. Each case has to be judged on its own clinical merits."



Christian emphasis urged for RE lessons

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

STATE schools must devote more than half of religious education lessons to Christianity even when children from other faiths are in the majority, according to draft government guidelines published yesterday.

John Patten, the education secretary, issued the 62-page document detailing schools' requirements under the law as part of a drive to improve the quality of religious education.

The move provoked a hostile response from head teachers, who said the guidelines were heavy-handed and threatened to create difficulties for schools with large numbers of parents and pupils from other faiths.

The circular says Christianity should dominate in lessons and collective worship regardless of the faith of pupils. RE lessons should address wider issues of morality.

However, the precise balance between Christianity and other religions in RE lessons should be struck locally to minimise the number of parents who might exercise their right to withdraw pupils. The

emphasis on Christianity should be higher where few pupils follow other faiths.

The guidelines reaffirm that schools with a high proportion of Muslim, Sikh or Hindu pupils are allowed to opt out of the requirement that daily worship is broadly Christian. Some 253 schools have gained such approval since the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The circular, which is open for consultation, urges head teachers to keep a record of the content and character of assemblies in case parents challenge the school's performance. A national blueprint for RE is expected early next year as a basis for syllabuses drawn up by committees in each local education authority.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "I do not think national diktats make a constructive contribution to a sensitive issue. My worry is that the government is in danger of tipping over the edge and preventing schools from reflecting the multi-faith nature of communities in many parts of the country."

Armed police 'held family in terror'

By A STAFF REPORTER

ARMED police acting on an anonymous tip-off terrified a family when they smashed down their front door in an unsuccessful search for a wanted man, the High Court was told yesterday.

David O'Halloran, then 25, his pregnant wife, their daughters aged three and two and an 11-year-old niece were asleep in their ninth-floor council flat in Luton, Bedfordshire, when seven or more officers with riot shields burst in, a jury was told. The family are suing the Chief Constable of Bedfordshire for damages for assault and wrongful imprisonment.

Mr O'Halloran, a part-time waiter with a criminal record, said that during the dawn raid in December 1988 the family were told to put their hands up. He was

ordered to lay naked on the floor, his hands were handcuffed behind him and a gun barrel was "rammed down" behind his right ear.

The police had been told that a wanted man whom Mr O'Halloran had met in prison was at the flat. Mr O'Halloran said that when he asked the "intruders" who they were, "a little fat guy with a moustache put a foot in my face and said: 'Shut your mouth - wait until the CID get here'". Fifteen minutes later detectives arrived and one told a colleague: "They have got the wrong man."

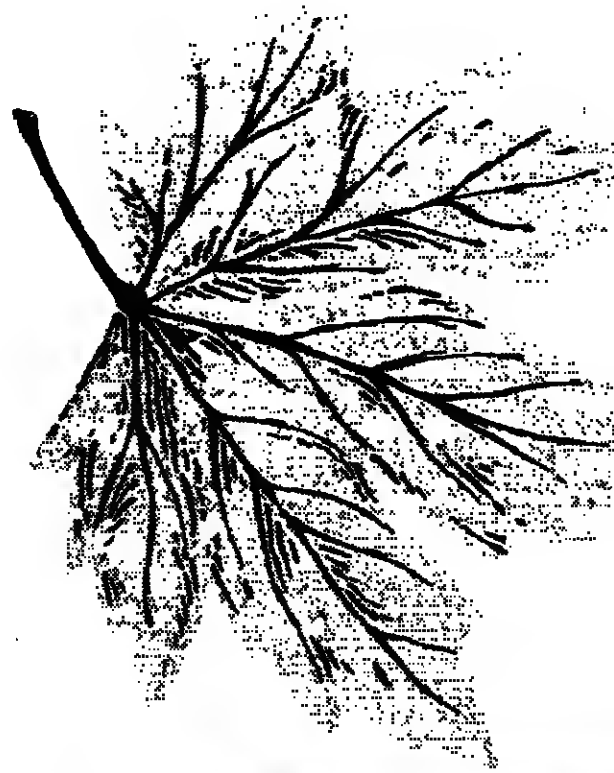
Glyn Spalding, the assistant chief constable, who authorised the raid, said that "an armed operation without warning or further surveillance was the only serious option."

The case continues today.



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New flood defence policy will abandon farmland to the sea

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

LOW-grade farmland along parts of Britain's erosion-prone coastline may be abandoned to the waves under a new government strategy for sea and flood defences.

Gillian Shephard, the agriculture minister, told a conference yesterday that flood warning systems and the defence of urban areas had "first call" on the government's £300 million coastal and flood defence budget.

Protecting large swathes of rural coastline with concrete walls was no longer economically or environmentally justifiable, she indicated.

Mrs Shephard, speaking at an Association of District Councils' conference in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, said trying to tame the action of waves and storms in one area often displaced damage elsewhere. "Experience has shown that natural river and coastal processes should only be disrupted... where life or important natural man-made assets are at risk."

The strategy has disappointed some scientists, who have been urging the government to draft long-term plans that would lead to the abandonment of all areas of the coastline threatened by the effects of erosion and rising sea levels.

Dr John Peirce, a coastal erosion specialist from Hull University, will tell the conference today that towns, farms and installations, including nuclear power stations, should be moved many miles inland behind new defences over the next 100 years.

The claims interfering with natural processes such as wave action is ultimately pointless and wastes millions of pounds a year. On America's eastern seaboard, for example, more money has been spent on protecting areas from erosion than has been spent on the space programme, with few tangible benefits.

Some kinds of protection, such as sea walls, simply accelerate the impact of erosion, displacing it to other areas. Salt marshes and the inter-tidal habitat behind sea walls also appears to suffer

because no fresh material is coming off the land to feed them.

Mrs Shephard's speech signalled a shift in strategy towards so-called soft engineering options. These include using gravel and other materials to boost the shoreline as well as managed retreat, the term for abandoning the coastline to the elements.

The agriculture department has begun offering landowners 20-year grants to cover the loss of abandoned land in areas where allowing land to disappear will improve coastal habitats.

English Nature, the government's wildlife adviser, calculates Britain loses about 100 hectares of scientifically important habitat to the sea each year. Groups such as the RSPB claim some of this decline could be offset by taking down smaller sea walls in counties such as Essex to allow eroded material from the land to feed the threatened sites.

Such a scheme is already planned on the Blackwater estuary in Essex where one farmer is to be paid £525 a year to allow his land to vanish. The National Rivers Authority has calculated it costs £60,000 a year to maintain the 1.2 kilometre-long wall which protects 45 hectares of grade-two agricultural land.



Fraser Birrell, left, Chris Maguire and Iain Royall receiving footplate instruction from Lachlan Duncan, who began driving steam in 1942

Dreams of steam come true

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

LIKE most of the boys in his class at primary school, Iain Royall dreamt of driving a steam train. Twenty-nine years after joining ScotRail he has been given his chance.

Half-a-dozen trainee drivers and firemen have been chosen to keep the art of steam train driving alive in Britain. From this week until November 2 they will learn how to drive the *Union of South Africa*, an A4 locomotive built in 1937 and owned by the Scottish millionaire farmer John Cameron.

The training scheme was devised after a ScotRail supervisor realised that all the men who drove steam trains on special occasions were over 65. The skill was dying out.

Mr Royall, who is more used to handling an IoterCity 125, is enthusiastic about the steam train. "It's like sailing a vessel, in that the driver and

the fireman have to work as a team. If that works well, then it's fantastic."

The *Union of South Africa*, whose name was changed to *Osprey* for a while because of the political situation in its namesake country, normally runs on a private line on Mr Cameron's Fife estate. It carries ten tons of coal and uses five on the training trip from Perth to Springburn and back, plus 10,000 gallons of water to produce steam. The locomotive reaches 60mph.

Lachlan Duncan, who is training the men, started driving steam trains in 1942. Passengers on the trips are as enthusiastic as his trainees. Ronald Ritchie from Glasgow said he had paid the £10 single fare for "purely nostalgic reasons". "When I was a boy, I would go to Central Station in Glasgow every Saturday morning, just in the hope of getting onto the footplate. It was a great thrill. I think there should be an act of Parliament bringing back the steam trains. It would be a waste of money — but what a marvellous way to waste money."



The *Union of South Africa*, built in 1937, at full pelt

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Woman accepts £25,000 for arrest

By Bill Frost

A WOMAN accepted £25,000 in damages from the Metropolitan Police yesterday after campaigning for four-and-a-half years to clear her name after being arrested and locked in a cell for failing to display a road-tax disc.

Cheryl Holland, 40, a BT manager, said her reputation had been cleared after an agreed statement was read out at Lambeth County Court detailing the settlement for assault, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution. The police will also pay her costs of about £7,000.

Mrs Holland, from Morden, Surrey, said outside the court: "I think our police do a great job and deserve our support. However, a minority of officers give the service a bad name. I have had no apology though. The police should have said sorry for what happened."

Mrs Holland was locked in a cell at Kennington police station for four hours after being arrested by two officers in March 1989. They alleged that she had shut herself inside her mother's flower shop and shouted through the letterbox.

She was charged with failing to display a tax disc, to

which she pleaded guilty and was fined £15 by magistrates. Her pleas of not guilty to failing to provide her name and address and using threatening, abusive and insulting words and behaviour were rejected and she was given a conditional discharge for six months.

Mrs Holland appealed against her conviction, calling a postman to prove that the shop had no letterbox. Judge Rucker, hearing her appeal at Southwark Crown Court in 1989, accused the two officers of lying. In quashing her conviction, he said: "I was appalled by what we heard. It was clear that the officers were lying. It makes my blood run cold to think that police officers are willing to perjure themselves over a matter as trivial as this."

A Scotland Yard spokeswoman said yesterday that the Department of Public Prosecutions and the Police Complaints Authority had investigated whether the officers should be charged with perjury, but concluded the evidence did not justify criminal proceedings. "Both officers were severely admonished by their chief superintendents," she said.

Warning: sleep can damage your health

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

TENS of thousands of people in Britain are unaware they are suffering from a dangerous form of sleep disturbance. Anybody who snores heavily, suffering from disrupted sleep and tending to nod off at inappropriate moments during the day — such as at the wheel — could be a victim of sleep apnoea.

A report published yesterday by the Royal College of Physicians says the condition is most prevalent in overweight, middle-aged men. It occurs when the airways narrow during sleep and collapse, preventing air getting to the lungs. The sleeper struggles for breath, wakes up abruptly

— probably without even realising it — and then goes back to sleep again. This cycle can be repeated several hundred times a night, resulting in excessive daytime sleepiness.

Treatment is now at hand, whereby sufferers go to sleep at night with a mask covering the nose, through which air is pumped to maintain a positive pressure sufficient to keep open the airways.

Scientists at Hull University are subjecting sleeping volunteers to a recording of central heating system gurgles and bangs as part of a £10,000 study into sleep and how it is affected by noise.

Judge jails teenage rail vandals

Three teenagers who dropped a coping stone onto the roof of a passenger train were each sentenced to three years' detention yesterday.

The stone pierced the roof of the passing Nelson to Preston two-carriage train, showering passengers with debris.

Judge Ian Webster said at Burnley Crown Court the two 17-year-olds and a 16-year-old had been guilty of a "wicked, dangerous and deliberate" act. The three youths had earlier been found guilty of causing damage with intent to endanger life. They had loosened the stone, weighing between 1½ and 2cwt, from a bridge at Brierfield near Nelson, Lancashire, in May last year.

Sore draw

Brian Nevins, 37, of Birtley, Tyne and Wear, drank so much on a night out celebrating a £786,000 pools win that he hardly felt a thing as he spent 30 minutes with his leg impaled on railings. Surgeons had to remove a spike still sticking through the leg.

Farmer jailed

Reginald Olliffe, 46, a farmer, of Crickley Hill, near Gloucester, was jailed for six months by Cheltenham magistrates after admitting leaving livestock starving and uncared for. He was also banned for life from keeping animals.

Man remanded

John Rous, 47, was remanded in custody accused of murdering Jon Newby, 22, a care worker of Devizes, Wiltshire, at a hostel where he lived at Cowley, Oxford, on Saturday.

£880,000 award

Alwyn Woodbine, 49, a former smallholder, of Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire, was awarded £880,000 agreed damages in the High Court for brain damage caused by a head-on crash between his tractor and a car.

Couple die

A couple due in court on child sex abuse charges were found dead at their home hours before they were to appear at Maidstone Crown Court.

حکومت الاسلام

Open prison move urged for murderer

By STEWART TENOLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CAMPAIGNERS are pressing Michael Howard, the home secretary, to move a woman serving life for murder in Durham prison to an open prison closer to her family.

The plight of Yvonne Sleightholme, who is blind and was convicted two years ago of murdering her former boy friend's wife, led Judge Stephen Tumm, the inspector of prisons, earlier this year to urge her transfer to Askham Grange in Yorkshire. Church leaders and MPs have been asked by her supporters to put pressure on the Home Office. Members of her victim's family oppose her being moved.

Sleightholme, from Seamer, North Yorkshire, is in a high security wing which holds two IRA women and another 27 women serving life sentences.

She was convicted in 1991 at Leeds Crown Court of shooting Javne Smith seven months after Mrs Smith had married Sleightholme's former fiancé.

While on remand, Sleightholme lost her sight, in a rare medical condition known as

■ Yvonne Sleightholme, who is blind, should not be held in a high-security wing at Durham prison, campaigners say

traumatic or hysterical blindness and is now registered as blind. At her trial, the psychiatrist Professor Brice Pitt said sufferers usually recovered after a few weeks. He said that the blindness was genuine.

In his report Judge Tumm wrote: "We could find no justification for the allocation to Durham of a totally blind woman. She had elderly parents who lived in a rural area near York and found it impossible to reach Durham but who could easily have visited her at Askham Grange."

David Hamilton, one of those campaigning for her move, said the high-security wing was unsuitable for a disabled woman. She had received no training in mobility and sometimes missed her meals because it took her so long to reach the dining facilities. She has been victimised and abused by prisoners who thought she might not really be blind. Her white stick had

been broken, her dressing gown cut to pieces and a shoe thrown at her face.

Mr Hamilton said: "We appreciate that it is not usual for a life prisoner at her stage of sentence to be moved to an open prison but in her circumstances and in view of Judge Tumm's report we feel that the humanitarian grounds for such a move are compelling."

The possibility of a move to another closed prison had been raised, he said. But she had been worried that she might find herself among drug addicts and would be unable to cope.

The Prison Reform Trust agreed that a move was needed.

The Home Office would not comment on individual cases but officials say that under the rules, Sleightholme cannot yet be sent to an open prison. She would have to go before a parole board, which would not be held for some time.



Yvonne Sleightholme, who has traumatic blindness, at Leeds Crown Court in 1988

Child support system under fire

By EDWARD GORMAN

THE Labour party yesterday called for a formal review of the Child Support Agency as its chief executive defended the targeting of middle-class fathers.

Donald Dewar, the shadow social security secretary, said that six months into the new regime, it was already clear that a review was necessary.

He said middle-class men already paying maintenance were not meant to be the principal target of the agency. "The fear is that Treasury demands are distorting the system," he said. "The two out of three absent parents paying no maintenance are being put on the back-burner."

Mr Dewar also expressed concern about the use of an arbitrary computer formula to determine complex individual maintenance payments. He said the agency was adopting the same approach as used by local authorities with the poll tax and with equally disastrous results.

He said the formula should be changed to take into account the travelling costs incurred by absent parents visiting their children and households where houses

have been given over in lieu of maintenance by one partner to another.

Mr Dewar's comments follow a robust defence of the agency by Ros Hepplewhite, its chief executive, in the face of increasing opposition from divorced fathers, many of whom were already paying maintenance by court order but were now being asked to pay double the original amounts.

Mrs Hepplewhite said middle-class men were always intended as a target of the new legislation. She said many people had been paying a "quite unrealistic" levels which did not reflect the true cost of supporting a family.

She also defended the retroactive aspect of the new law which enables the agency to review and replace agreed maintenance orders previously settled in court.

Mrs Hepplewhite suggested that people faced with new maintenance bills were worrying unduly. "We have found that anxieties about lives being disrupted in families who had sorted out arrangements have largely not materialised," she said.

Phone users take flight

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE message of airline business passengers to colleagues on the ground is: Don't call us, we'll call you.

When Virgin Atlantic told business customers that it would install telephones on long-range jets, more than 86 per cent responding to a survey asked the airline not to programme them to receive incoming calls. More than 90

per cent wanted to make calls to people on the ground but most did not want to be disturbed while sleeping or eating by the ringing of their own or a neighbour's phone.

The airline plans to install phone booths in the economy class cabin of Airbus A340 and Boeing 747-400 jets to be delivered next year and to put phones in the armrests of mid- and first-class seats. The business users asked for fax machines too.

British Airways will introduce mobile phones on its domestic shuttle services in February, again without being able to receive incoming calls. "We had the same response as Virgin in our customer research," a BA spokesman said.

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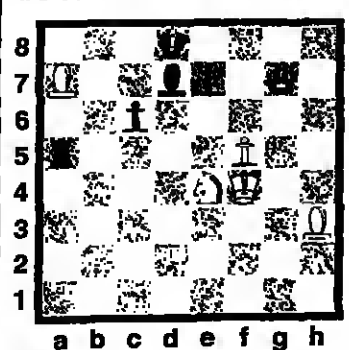
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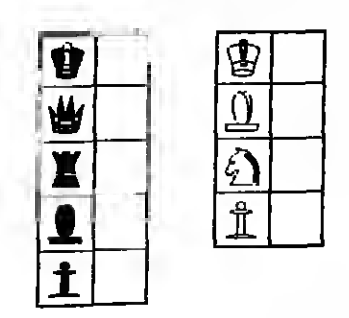
On your Checkmate Card there are 20 letter-number combinations — g6, h2, a5 and so on. These represent the positions on a standard chess board.

Compare the positions on your Checkmate Card against those on Today's Chess Board (right). If a combination on your card matches a chess piece on the Checkmate Chess Board mark in the Checkmate Table. If you are able to mark off all the pieces in the Checkmate Table in any one day, in any order, you win or share in the daily prize of £1,000 cash.

TODAY'S CHESS BOARD



TODAY'S CHECKMATE TABLE



□ HOW TO CLAIM: If you mark off all the pieces in the Checkmate Table you must claim your prize on the same day by phoning the Checkmate claims line 091-567 0629 between 10am and 3.30pm. Claims cannot be accepted outside these hours. You must have your Checkmate Card with you when you claim. In the event of more than one winner, the prize will be divided equally among the winners. For General Rules, see the reverse of your Checkmate Card.

□ TODAY'S WINNER will be announced in The Times tomorrow. Yesterday's winners: J. Pope, Ross on Wye, Herts; Mr P. Toman, Finsbury Park, London; Mr R. Jones, Buterworth, Leics; Mrs J. M. Boyd, Thorne, Leeds.

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Melinda Wittstock finds the times are a-changing for an industry facing its greatest challenge

Hi-tech change rocks the world of pop

TROUBLE IN TIN PAN ALLEY

CHILL winds are rattling the roots of Tin Pan Alley. The pop music business, which is Britain's third largest export earner, accounting for 20 per cent of worldwide record sales, is in trouble.

New talent has failed to strike a lasting chord with record buyers, the old pop megastars are selling only a fraction of what they did in the eighties and record companies have been accused of CD price-fixing, chart-rigging and putting hype ahead of music. On top of that computer games from Nintendo and Sega have wooed teenagers away from the record market at a time when musical tastes have become so varied that few new releases achieve anything like the sales of a few years ago.

The pop music industry has reacted to these woes with characteristic chutzpah. Insiders point to the fact that the recession is lifting, that critics of overpriced CDs have been silenced and that new groups such as Take That are making millions. Maybe so, but the challenge that the pop business cannot ignore is the technological revolution that is about to shake the industry to its foundations.

New technology will soon connect the nation's sitting rooms to "digital highways" of music, bypassing the record shop altogether while providing pirates with a high-quality source for illicit home recording.

Still more revenue is staked on the outcome of an unprecedented High Court battle over artists' recording contracts and a Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation into anti-competitive practice. Both revolve around what Rupert Perry, UK head of EMI Records, told *The Times* is the biggest single challenge facing the British record industry: "The protection of copyright."

A legal victory next month for the singer George Michael, who wants to be released from an exclusive contract binding him to record six more albums for Sony by 2003, could significantly diminish the extent to which record companies can exploit both their current chart-toppers and their extensive libraries of "back-catalogue" hits. If the Sony contract is deemed "unenforceable", record executives could face long queues of managers demanding immediate renegotiation.

British band managers will shortly submit "a substantial document" to the MMC demanding that record companies relinquish ownership of artists' copyrights, reduce the length of contracts, which now bind artists for up to 20 years, limit the large sums record companies can claw back from artists' royalties for packaging and promotion, and

give artists the right to audit factory output and international sales. But with as much as 70 per cent of record company revenue now coming from re-releases and remixes of old hits, and only one in ten new albums making a profit, the industry's ability to invest in new talent is under threat, according to the British Phonographic Industry (BPI), which represents UK labels.

Average profit margins are now as low as 4 per cent, and if big-name artists were free to label-hop with each album, industry sources say the resulting bidding war would make the deals signed recently by Madonna, Prince and Michael Jackson seem paltry.

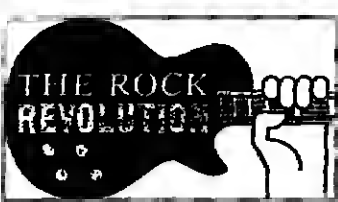
Paul Russell, chairman of Sony Music (UK), has gone so far as to predict that the industry would self-destruct. Record companies say they take tremendous risks in a fickle marketplace to discover, nurture and sustain new acts. It can cost between £250,000 and £1 million to launch a new band on a major label, but rarely do record companies make a profit on an artist's first album, the BPI said. "Even if a record company makes a lot on a first album, they often lose it all on the second," EMI's Mr Perry, also BPI chairman, said.

"It's a very tricky business, with very high investment costs and tremendous volatility," he said. "All of us want to break through with an artist who can be a consistent seller, but this is proving difficult. But new talent is our lifeblood. That's why some record companies devote between 15 and 30 per cent of turnover to discovering and sustaining new talent, compared to an R&D spend of 3 per cent in the pharmaceutical industry."

But Ed Bicknell, the manager of Dire Straits who recently accused major labels of "colluding" on artists' contractual terms, said: "Record labels risk much less of their own money than they would like you to believe, and they break even on acts long before they say they do. Sure if George Michael wins on all counts, profits might dip a bit, but they know they can't survive without investing in new talent."

But like many others in the business Mr Perry denies the industry is in crisis. "We were severely hit by the recession, with unit album sales down 19 per cent since 1989, but now we are seeing some levelling of the trend, with sales up for the first time — 11 per cent — last quarter."

"It's not all doom and gloom. These really are exciting and dynamic times, with so many new opportunities ahead presented by new technology, particularly interactive CDs. But it's crucial that legislators understand the importance of protecting copyright," he said.



The pop business cannot ignore the revolution that is about to shake the industry to its foundations'



Gypsy, lead singer of band Gypsy Nation, performs for record company representatives at a London studio

Feeding a fickle culture

WHATEVER happened to rock'n'roll? Gone are the days when a generation shared one musical vocabulary. The new sound of music is catholic, as Ragga, grunge, country, soul, reggae, thrash metal, world music, dance and various techno, acid, rap and rave derivatives compete for the attention of an increasingly capricious youth culture.

The fragmentation of the pop market has split trouble for the big six record companies, which now have to work harder for a smaller slice of the market. Although the overall size of the market has not fallen, sales have slumped and costs have soared as labels release more singles and albums to cater for a widening spectrum of tastes.

"We'd all love to find a new punk, a unifying musical movement, but rock is continually rebelling against itself with more sub-categories, each with a shorter lifespan," John Preston, chairman of BMG, which owns the Arista and RCA labels, said.

Record companies can no longer rely on megastars such as Madonna, Prince or Michael Jackson to keep the tills ringing when young rappers, soul divas or grunge rockers fail to survive the shock of early success — let alone appeal to a broad market.

Few big names of the 80s show signs of ever again reaching the stratospheric sales figures upon which their record labels came to rely. Most now struggle to keep pace with names unrecog-

nised outside their specific niche. American cowboy Garth Brooks, for example, has sold four times as many records in the US this decade as Michael Jackson.

"Only a few new acts stay around for a long time," John Pinder, who monitors music trends for Gallup, said. "Bands are in and out of the singles charts in a week, and few ever match the success of their first album. One-hit wonders are a real headache."

Gypsy Nation was one struggling band that blitzed record companies with demo tapes hoping to strike a deal. The four-man group, formed a year ago, has been playing gigs for as little as £200 a night, barely covering costs. Landing a record contract is more a matter of chance than talent and even then the odds against having a hit are enormous.

Adrian Westrich, managing director of the Chart Information Network, said that out of 10,000 new singles released each year only 100 make it to the top ten. Rupert Perry, UK head of EMI Records, said: "It's a Herculean task for artists, whose first album may have included ten years' of songs, to produce a second album as good in just 18 months while touring, making videos, and giving interviews."

Mr Preston said British labels, whose artists account for 20 per cent of all records sold worldwide, had traditionally achieved such success because they were quick to recognise sub-cultures.

TOP OF THE POPS EARNERS



Paul McCartney Sheena Easton

Paul McCartney	420m
Tom Jones	252m
Phil Collins	118m
Engelbert Humperdinck	95m
Elton John	80m
Paul Hewson (Bono/U2)	70m
Mick Jagger	69.5m
David Evans (The Edge/U2)	60m
Mark Knopfler	57.5m
Adam Clayton (U2)	55m
Gordon Sumner (Sting)	52m
Bernie Taupin	43.5m
Sheena Easton	39.5m
Rod Stewart	38m
Keith Richards	35.5m
George Michael	32m
George Harrison	32m
Bill Wyman	31m
Dave Stewart	28.5m
Clingf Richard	27m
Ringo Starr	26m
Eric Clapton	26m

Big money eludes all but a select few

Only those stars who have been at the top for years can hope to find themselves among the richest 500 Britons

THEY have topped the charts for weeks on end, their concerts are sell-outs, they are surrounded by squealing fans and the tabloids just cannot get enough of them. They are pop stars, and they must be millionaires. Right?

Wrong. The multi-million sums paid to Madonna, the Rolling Stones and Michael Jackson in the era of the rock superdeals obscure how badly the majority of recording artists are paid.

For every Phil Collins, Elton John, Mick Jagger, Sting or Bono, there are hundreds of other pop stars earning £40 a week as they wait, often for as long as two or three years, for the royalties from their first album.

At the height of their success in 1981 with the million-selling number one single *Don't You Want Me?*, The Human League were earning £35 a week. Not on the heels of their first album in 1977, *The Clash* celebrated a pay rise from £40 to £60 a week.

"A band can achieve dozens

of number one hits and not make any real money," Ronny Harris, a music business accountant with Harris Trotter, said. "Valuations of artists' wealth in newspapers are almost always far too high. The multi-million sums are almost always reserved for those who write their own songs, own their own recording copyright, sell overseas and have been around for longer than ten years."

With only one in ten new albums now making a profit, few of today's chart-toppers ever see anything approaching the startling sums bandied about as though they were rock's common currency.

Radiohead, Britain's answer to the grunge band Nirvana, are now earning £100 a week, even though their first album, *Pablo Honey*, has gone gold in America with

sales of over 500,000 and the band's single, *Creep*, is high in the British charts. "We don't expect any royalty cheques until next year," Chris Hufford, Radiohead's manager, said. "Song writing is where the real money is made."

A survey of the 500 richest Britons in the autumn edition of *Business Age* magazine includes 22 pop stars. They range from Paul McCartney at 11th position with £420 million, to Eric Clapton in 46th place with £26 million.

Most, with the exception of George Michael and the members of U2, have been recording hit albums for at least 20 years, and all but a few — Sheena Easton, Tom Jones and Ringo Starr — write their own songs. These, when covered by other artists or used in advertisements and

film soundtracks, can earn millions for the original song writer.

Few new artists can expect ever to sign the sort of megadeals clinched recently by Prince and Michael Jackson.

Prince, who first made it big in 1984 with the ten-million-seller *Purple Rain*, last September signed a staggering \$100 million (£65 million) deal with Warner Music guaranteeing him \$5 million (£3.25 million) per album plus 25 per cent of royalties. Unlike all other such deals, the sum did not include revenue from touring, merchandising, videos, television, films or book publishing. Film and videos alone earn Prince another \$10 million (£6.5 million) a year. He makes millions more thanks to artists like Tina Turner, Sinead O'Connor, Simple

Minds and Madonna who record cover versions. Michael Jackson, whose \$65 million (£42 million) 1991 contract with Sony provides him with the highest royalty rate in the business at 42 per cent, earns \$4.60 (£3) with every sale of *Bad* and *Dangerous*, which have sold a respective 25 million and 14 million copies. His 1983 album *Thriller* sold 43 million copies, his 1987-89 tour grossed over \$120 million (£80 million) and his current world tour is understood to be earning him \$154 (£100) for each second spent on stage.

"Each contract is completely different," Mr Harris said. New acts signed to a record label can expect to receive an advance ranging from £15,000 to £250,000, sometimes even £1 million, to record an album. Most managers will take 20 per cent of that, and the money put up by the record label to cover recording, tour support and promotion costs will be clawed back out of royalties if the album becomes profitable.

CD will bring studio into the home

TECHNOLOGY is moving so fast that relaxing at home with music might soon become a much busier affair. You will no longer simply listen to a record, you will be able to watch it, read it, remix it and even play games with it. Britain's first "interactive" CD recordings arrive this

month, along with a new CD-I player from Philips that performs as a video player, karaoke machine and computer game. Plug the CD-I deck, with "full motion video" cartridge, into your television and stereo and you will get digital-quality music which you can adjust for mood, tempo, acoustics, lyrics or arrangement by remote control. Press more buttons for text, still photographs, animation, music videos, games and feature films.

"In two years no one will be buying CDs without visual images," said Graham Fletcher, a former record executive who now produces CD-I's. "Most will retail for only £2 more than normal CDs."

Record labels, fearful of competition from computer games as well as digital audio broadcasting, are only beginning to wake up to the opportunities.

Philips, which has agreed the CD-I standard with rivals Sony and Matsushita, is selling the CD-I player at £500, likely to fall to £350 by

Christmas. A "full motion video" cartridge, at an extra £150, will plug consumers into 50 feature films available on CD-I this autumn from the Hollywood studio Paramount, as well as interactive albums promised from the likes of Peter Gabriel, U2 and even The Beatles.

Rhythm King Records, the first British label to produce a

FUTURE TECH

CD-I, next month launches five bands on a £14.99 CD-I compilation, *The Worlds Of*... allows listeners and viewers to put the band Ugly through an inquisition, "randomise" the lyrics of 'C', remix a track of the band CNN, chat with the members of Heaven West XI and follow the Sultans of Ping through a perilous journey on the Tokyo underground.

"CD-I is not just new technology, it's also a little bit hip. The style is very youth oriented," said Sandy MacKenzie of Philips Interactive Media,

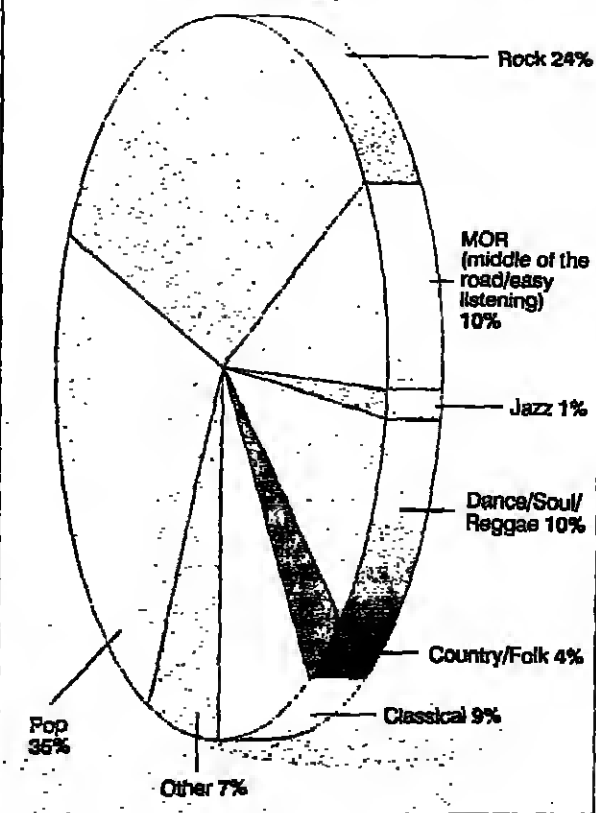
which co-operated with Rhythm King to produce *The Worlds Of*...

Rupert Perry, UK head of EMI Records, said: "In time CD-I will be a part of everyone's home. It is an opportunity the record companies cannot miss."

But most labels have been slow to wake up to CD-I's potential. Companies such as Mr Fletcher's FitVision plan to "rent" recording rights from the record labels to produce CD-I's working closely with the artist. The producer would own the newly-created CD-I copyright and pay the record company a share of the royalties.

Todd Rundgren, the rock singer, has produced the first "pick-n-mix" CD-I. The disc can be re-arranged to build riffs, create moods, mix instruments and restructure songs. The music can be speeded up or slowed. The mood can adapt from "bright" to "sad" to "spacious". With 2,000 options, the disc, if adjusted to "random", would not repeat itself for 18 years.

WHAT PEOPLE WERE BUYING IN 1992



PIRATING

BRITISH record labels are demanding a change in copyright legislation to ensure that digital transmission of CD-quality music direct to sitting rooms cannot be used as a master source for illicit home recording.

The British Phonographic Industry (BPI), predicting that digital audio broadcasting (DAB) would ultimately replace record shops by targeting consumers with specialised music channels, has called on the government to force DAB services to incorporate an inaudible signal into the music to prevent copying.

The industry is also demanding that royalties from DAB not be reduced to those of traditional radio and television broadcasts. Sara John, the industry's director of legal affairs, said: "What DAB will become is a primary form of distribution largely replacing retail sales, so we will be looking at a different royalty standard."

DAB is already available on cable in Britain and by early next year Digital Music Express (DMX) will begin "narrowcasting" 30 channels of music via satellite to homes with Sky Television. This month DMX plans to add another 30 channels to the existing 30 it offers Bradford Cable subscribers, plus another 26 by the end of the year.

"Each of these channels is geared to a specific target group," Ms John said. "With enough channels, it will mean that any given listener will never hear anything he doesn't enjoy."

She said the record industry, while recognising the ultimate inevitability of DAB, wanted to limit the potential damage to copyright owners. "Record companies must be given the right to authorise or prohibit the use of their records by DAB stations. We need to be in a strong position to negotiate a reasonable royalty," she said.

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Greece's socialist veteran has come in from the cold, sending a tremor of unease through Europe

Papandreou to focus on EC and the economy

By TOM RHODES IN ATHENS AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AS victory celebrations subsided in Athens yesterday, Andreas Papandreou, the socialist party leader who swept to victory in elections at the weekend, began the business of forming a cabinet and grappling with the country's debt.

But his victory sent a tremor of unease through the European Community and Nato, where memories of his confrontational style in his last two governments remained vivid. The French foreign minister, Alain Juppé, spoke for much of Europe when he said bluntly that the Papandreou triumph showed that "people have short memories".

Throughout the campaign, officials from the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) had spent much time assuring both diplomats and businessmen of their commitment to European economic union. Greece assumes the EC presidency in January.

Mr Papandreou appears to have set aside his more radical policies of the 1980s. Last week, Pasok revealed a list of



A jubilant Andreas Papandreou and his wife, Dimitra, waving to supporters in Athens after his poll triumph. Among the crowd was Melina Mercouri, below, a former culture minister

ELECTION RESULTS				
THE results of Sunday's elections for the 300-member unicameral parliament announced by the Interior Ministry with more than 98 per cent of the vote counted were: Registered voters: 8,792,082; Voter turnout: 6,873,813 (78.18%); Valid votes: 6,757,346; Invalid votes: 86,847; Blank votes: 26,620				
Major parties	Votes	%	Seats	
Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK)	3,189,331	46.90	170	
New Democracy (center-right)	2,657,690	39.33	111	
Political Spring (center-right)	329,726	4.86	10	
Greek Communist Party (KKE)	805,493	11.99	9	
Coalition of the Left and Progress (left)	97,233	1.44	none	

may only elect a president if it holds 180 seats in the 300-member parliament. Pasok has only 170 and will need to make a deal another political grouping, the communists for example. Even if such a deal is forged, Mr Papandreou will have to appease his domestic audience by improving living standards. Greece is still hampered by a weak economy. The country has the lowest productivity, highest inflation and largest external debt in the EC. While diplomats argue that Pasok will employ technocrats to help formulate economic policy it is hard to imagine how even they will deal with those questions swiftly.

The socialists have promised to reverse the privatisation programme set in motion by their predecessors and this will lose the new government as much as 800 billion drachmas (£2.2 billion) over the next 16 months. Europe has long shown concern for Greece's apparent inability to set its financial house in order and although the Greeks can expect £20 billion from the community over the next five years, the stronger partners will expect something in return, for instance a compromise on recognition for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Neither this nor improved relations with Turkey seems likely under the new administration, which has firmly

attached itself to the Hellenist ideal of retaining the title Macedonia for Greece.

Nevertheless, much has changed since Mr Papandreou was last in power in 1989. On a personal level, he has been cleared of a £130-million political scandal for which Sunday's victory will be seen as the ultimate vindication. Dimitra Liani, the third wife who caused him so much embarrassment in the late 1980s has become a respected member of political circles here. Mr Papandreou is thus faced with just one major hurdle, his health. He is quite clearly not fit for strenuous shuttle diplomacy. Athens markets were yesterday anxiously waiting for



Red-faced burghers of Maastricht hope treaty will clear drugs from Junk Park

■ Ordinary citizens of the city where the treaty was hammered out are longing for its name to fade from the headlines, in the hope that "drug tourism" will also disappear

FROM ROGER BOYES IN MAASTRICHT

THE burghers of this Dutch city on the River Meuse have been living on the brink of apocalypse for two years: Maastricht in ruins! Maastricht about to collapse! Maastricht irrelevant!

If the city is the treaty, then the citizens of Maastricht must be dwelling on the European equivalent of the San Andreas Fault. But from today — when the German constitutional court is expected to give a qualified approval to the treaty and clear the way for Europe-wide ratification — the Maastrichters can begin to relax. Their city will disappear from the headlines.

Not everyone in the city hall likes the idea: the ratification marathon has been a kind of perverse brand marketing for the city. There is also, as Bart Brouwers, of the *Limburger* newspaper, points out, an obscure sense of pride: "The treaty has helped to show the world that we are different, somehow separate from the rest of Holland. For the Limburg province, and for Maastricht [its capital], that



D'Artagnan, from Dumas's *The Three Musketeers*, saved an Englishman named John in Maastricht

has always been important." The feeling of ordinary Maastrichters now though is let us get on with implementing the treaty. That sentiment does not derive from love of Jacques Delors but from the need to stamp out the city's drug problem.

In Junk Park, a scrappy public garden near the station where syringes take their place alongside tulip bulbs, there is hectic trading in soft and hard drugs. The city police estimate that between 500 and 1,000 "drug tourists" visit Maastricht every day to pick up their supplies.

In Maastricht there are 20 so-called "coffee shops" selling soft drugs for personal consumption and there is street trading in and around Junk Park and about 70 private addresses where drugs are sold in bulk. The customers are mainly French and Belgian and their cars line the streets around the railway station. "They come because the drugs are cheap," a 29-year-old connoisseur of the scene says, "and because

That might remove the civic shame of Junk Park.

The spirit of European unity is seen oozing out in the informal co-operation between the neighbouring police patrols. Belgian and German police are being allowed by the Dutch to follow important suspects into Maastricht, although not of course to make arrests. Even so, Dutch patience was stretched the other day when Belgian police officers pursued a suspected drug dealer into Dutch territory and fired on him not far from Maastricht. "They are a bit trigger-happy, the Belgians," a shop assistant in Muntstraat said.

Next door to her shop there is some thin support for John Major's claim that Britain is now at the heart of Europe. A delicatesse is holding a British food week that seems to consist mainly of Benetton sweaters. It was in Maastricht that a musketeer, D'Artagnan, lost his life saving Captain John Churchill, the later Duke of Marlborough. Whether Maastricht can save any other Englishmen named John is a matter of some speculation here.

Other cities have managed to survive flawed international agreements and the prognosis for Maastricht as a focus of European capital investment is rather good. First though, the city will have to clean up Junk Park.

France tries to save face with compromise on Gatt

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

WORRIED by its isolation, the French government will seek today to draft a compromise on world trade that would set aside the disputed issues of farm exports and culture in order to meet the December 15 deadline.

American and EC officials have already rejected as unfeasible this new attempt by Edouard Balladur, the prime minister, to extract France with dignity from the corner into which it has painted itself in the negotiations for a new General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt).

Alain Juppé, the foreign minister, sketched the latest French idea yesterday in a sign of mounting anxiety in the Gaullist-led government that its partners may not help it off its hook by the deadline that is accepted by all other parties to the negotiations. Cracks have also begun appearing in the French determination to block any Gatt accord that did not satisfy its demands for a revision to the so-called Blair House agreement on farm exports between the EC and the United States. While headline Gaullists continue to beat the war drum, M. Balladur has begun setting the stage for an unpopular compromise, and Gerard Longuet, the industry minister, has been talking of the folly of torpedoing an accord needed

by France as much as any other country. The most striking dissent came from Patrick Devedjian, the Gaullist leader of a parliamentary commission, who said France was behaving irrationally and dangerously in its fight against Blair House. Challenging the prevailing orthodoxy that France was the only nation "brave enough" to face down the United States, M. Devedjian said: "This is not courage, it's blindness."

M. Juppé said yesterday that ministers would prepare "a list of subjects on which agreement could be reached immediately" and forward it to

Brussels for talks tomorrow between Sir Leon Brittan, the trade commissioner, and Mickey Kantor, the US trade representative.

Until the weekend, France was insisting on an all-or-nothing accord, saying that it did not recognise the December deadline because it was imposed by the Americans. Nothing had changed, M. Juppé said, in France's refusal to accept the Blair House accord. The United States has rebuffed the French-inspired attempt by the EC to modify the terms to take account of French needs. M. Juppé said France still hoped its EC partners would back his demand for changes. "But if the response is no, we shall not accept Blair House. It will therefore be necessary to come up with something else."

While US and EC officials are still talking privately of compromise, officials in Paris are preparing for stark options. If Paris concedes most of the disputed ground and accepts an accord including an unmodified Blair House, it will trigger a storm that could bring down the government. If it rejects a global accord, it will face the fierce opprobrium of the 117 other countries seeking to close the seven years of Gatt negotiations by December 15.



Balladur preparing unpopular proposal

French male angst, page 16



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MOTOROLA

Charles Bremner on a backlash among anti-feminists as French women unchain themselves from the kitchen sink

Gallic men mourn the little wife

AT FIRST glance, France seems like paradise for the weary Anglo-Saxon male, especially for refugees from the American gender wars. It is a land which still delights in the pleasures of *la différence*, especially from the men's angle. Women still do most of the housework and slave over their looks: television commercials promise that you can pick up girls with the right car, flirting in the workplace is still the rule, despite a rarely used new law on sexual harassment, and politically correct means voting for Edouard Balladur, the popular and very paternalist Gaullist prime minister.

Other evidence of the resentment is the success among men of a *Misogynists' Dictionary* that lists unkind things great Frenchmen have said about women.

Agnès Michaux, who produced this "Bible for Dyed-in-the-wool Anti-Feminists" as she calls it, had a lot to choose from. Jean Jacques Rousseau, father of the enlightenment, set the tone in the 18th century with his view that "the only glory of woman is to be admired by her husband and serve her family". Napoleon bequeathed to the 19th century the thought that French women must never be allowed to please themselves, and Sacha Guitry, the actor and director, gave the 20th century his famed one-liner, "If woman was good, God would have had one". Another current collection of misogynist sayings, compiled by

the feminist writer Benoîte Groult, notes that Jacques Chirac, leader of the Gaullist party, described his ideal woman as one who "served the men at table, never sat down with them and never spoke".

Mlle Michaux meant her book to be tongue-in-cheek, but it has offered aid and comfort to the enemy, providing much mirth for beleaguered phallobocrats around cafés and clubs.

In the past month, France's aggrieved males have found a new hero, Yves Roucaute, the man who dared to hit back. An academic and government adviser, M Roucaute has produced a diatribe against the "new dictatorship of French women". This, he believes, is threatening civilisation with "the most insidious form of totalitarianism which humanity has ever encountered". M Roucaute's



The cover of Roucaute's book

book, which has the deceptively mild title *Discours sur les femmes qui en font un peu trop* (Discourse on Women who Overdo it a Little),

amounts to a 300-page *cri de coeur* on behalf of the wounded ego of the Gallic male. M Roucaute blames women for crime, drugs and the destruction of the family. Les Françaises have castrated men and imposed a regime of "a colossal political-social mothering", he says.

ANYONE who knows the rapport between Lado women and their men might say the mothering had always been there, but M Roucaute blames the sexual and professional power of the "post-feminist" woman. A "feminist army of experts, judges, psychologists and sociologists are thrilled by the symbolic death of the father", he says. The evidence of the triumph of the new patriarchy is, he says, all the "nanny" laws restricting consumption and ad-

vertising of alcohol and tobacco, and those requiring seat belts and crash helmets. Its greatest victory, he says, is the awarding of custody of children to mothers in 85 per cent of cases, although 75 per cent of French divorces are initiated by women. A "silent revolution" has given power to a race of narcissistic, self-centred females, he says. "The unbearable lightness of the modern woman has killed love." Juliet today sneers at Romeo. France, he says, is in thrall to a voracious female monster. Typical, he says, is the woman who browbeats her partner into doing the housework, cooking and child-minding and then leaves him for what she calls "a real man".

While producing a battle text for aggrieved and frightened males, M Roucaute, who is an adviser to Alain Carignon, the communica-

tions minister, has brought down on himself the incredulous wrath of the chattering classes. Some commentators have gone for the jugular, digging into the author's desertion by his wife and his loss of custody of his twin daughters. "A man who pours out so much inanity for 120 francs must be desperate to meet his child support," sniffed a woman commentator. Other critics have pointed out that, outside education and the media, women still have far to go to come close to competing with men in working life. No chief executives of big industrial firms are women and 94 per cent of French MPs are men, the highest proportion in Western Europe.

Perhaps the most conclusive proof that France is still largely free of the new transatlantic orthodoxy is the fact that M Roucaute's effort was published at all. In New York, the mere delivery of such a manuscript would surely have had the gender police speeding to M Roucaute's door.

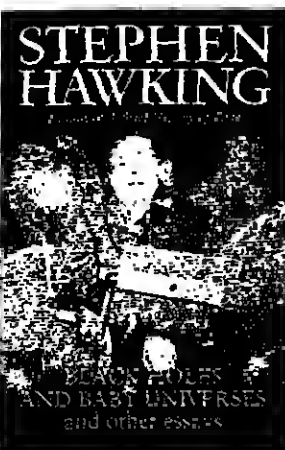
Are we masters of our fate?

In the play *Julius Caesar*, Cassius tells Brutus, "men at some times are masters of their fate". But are we really masters of our fate? Or is everything we do determined and preordained? The argument of predestination used to be that God was omnipotent and outside time, so God would know what was going to happen. But how then could we have any free will? And if we don't have free will, how can we be responsible for our actions? It can hardly be one's fault if one has been preordained to rob a bank. So why should one be punished for it?

In recent times, the argument for determinism has been based on science. It seems that there are well-defined laws that govern how the universe and everything in it develops in time. Although we have not yet found the exact form of all these laws, we already know enough to determine what happens in all but the most extreme situations. Whether we will find the remaining laws in the fairly near future is a matter of opinion. I'm an optimist: I think there's a 50/50 chance that we will find them in the next 20 years. But even if we don't, it won't really make any difference to the argument. The important point is that there should exist a set of laws that completely determines the evolution of the universe from its initial state.

But if it is difficult to see how we can be masters of our fate it is just as hard to believe that a certain number of equations account for the complexity and trivial detail that we see around us. Can one really believe that the grand unified theory has determined that Sinead O'Connor will be the top of the hit parade this week, or that Madonna will be on the cover of *Cosmopolitan*?

A second problem with the idea that everything is determined by a grand unified theory is that anything we say is also determined by the theory. But why should it be determined to be correct? Isn't it more likely to be wrong, because there are many possible incorrect statements for every true one? Each week, my mail contains a number of theories that people have sent me. They are all different, and most are mutually inconsistent. Yet, presumably, the grand unified theory has determined that the authors think they were correct. So why should anything I say have any greater validity? Aren't I equally determined by the grand unified theory?



STEPHEN HAWKING

Arguably the most brilliant scientist of his generation, Stephen Hawking, in the first of two essays from his latest book, asks: how can the human race have free will if the universe is determined by the laws of science?

A third problem with the idea that everything is determined is that we feel that we have free will — that we have the freedom to choose whether to do something. But if everything is determined by the laws of science, then free will must be an illusion, and if we don't have free will, what is the basis for our responsibility for our actions? We don't punish people for crimes if they are insane, because we have decided that they can't help it. But if we are all determined by grand unified theory, none of us can help what we do, so why should anyone be held responsible for what they do?

To start with the first problem: How can a relatively simple and compact theory give rise to a universe that is as complex as the one we observe, with all its trivial and unimportant details? The key to this is the uncertainty principle of quantum mechanics, which states that one cannot measure both the position and speed of a particle to great accuracy; the more accurately you measure the position, the less accurately you can measure the speed, and vice versa.

would differ on details like the distribution of stars and, even more, on what was on the covers of their magazines. (That is, if those histories contained magazines.) Thus the complexity of the universe around us and its details arose from the uncertainty principle in the early states.

I now turn to the second problem: If what we do is determined by some grand unified theory, why should the theory determine that we draw the right conclusions about the universe rather than the wrong ones? Why should anything we say have any validity? My answer to this is based on Darwin's idea of natural selection. I take it that some very primitive form of life arose spontaneously on earth from chance combinations of atoms. This early form of life was probably a large molecule. But it was probably not DNA, since the chances of forming a whole DNA molecule by random combinations are small.

The early form of life would have reproduced itself. The quantum uncertainty principle and the random thermal motions of the atoms would mean that there were a certain number of errors in the reproduction. Most of these errors would have been fatal to the survival of the organism or its ability to reproduce. Such errors would not be passed on to future generations but would die out. A few very errors would be beneficial, by pure chance. The organisms with these errors would be more likely to survive and reproduce. Thus they would tend to replace the original, unimproved organisms.

The development of the double helix structure of DNA may have been one such improvement in the early stages. This was probably such an advance that it completely replaced any earlier

form of life, whatever that may have been. As evolution progressed, it would have led to the development of the central nervous system. Creatures that correctly recognised the implications of data gathered by their sense organs and took appropriate action would be more likely to survive and reproduce. The human race has carried this to another stage. We are very similar to higher apes, both in our bodies and in our DNA: but a slight variation in our DNA has enabled us to develop language. This has meant that we can hand down information and accumulated experience from generation to generation, in spoken and eventually in written form. The effect has been a dramatic speed-up of evolution.

It took more than three billion years to evolve up to the human race. But over the last 10,000 years we have developed written language and progressed from cave dwellers to the point where we can ask about the ultimate theory of the universe.

There has been no significant biological evolution, or change in human DNA, in the last 10,000 years. Thus, our intelligence, our ability to draw the correct conclusions from the information provided by our sense organs, must date back to our cave dweller days or earlier. Our intelligence would have been selected on the basis of our ability to kill certain animals for food and to avoid being killed by other animals. It is remarkable that mental qualities that were selected for these purposes should have stood us in such good stead in the very different circumstances of the present day. There is probably not much survival advantage to be gained from discovering a grand unified theory or answering questions about determinism. Nevertheless, the intelligence that we have developed for other reasons may, well ensure that we find the right answers.

I now turn to the third problem, the questions of free will and responsibility for our actions. What we need is an objective test that we can apply from the outside to distinguish whether an organism has free will. For example, suppose we were visited by a "little green person" from another star. How could we decide whether it had free will or was just a robot, programmed to respond as if it were like us?

The ultimate objective test of free will would seem to be:



Hawking: It is far too difficult for us to predict human behaviour — and if we could it would disturb the system anyway

Can one predict the behaviour of the organism? If one can, then it clearly doesn't have free will but is predetermined. On the other hand, if one cannot predict the behaviour, one could take that as an operational definition that the organism has free will.

One might object to this definition of free will on the grounds that once we find a complete unified theory we will be able to predict what people will do. The human brain, however, is also subject to the uncertainty principle. Thus, there is an element of the randomness associated with quantum mechanics in human behaviour. But the real reason why we cannot predict human behaviour is that it is just too difficult. We already know the basic physical laws that govern the activity of the brain, and they are comparatively simple. But it is just too hard to solve the equations when there are more than a few particles involved. Even in the simpler Newtonian theory of gravity, one can solve the equations exactly only in the case of two particles. For three or more

particles one has to resort to approximations, and the difficulty increases rapidly with the number of particles. The human brain contains about a hundred million billion particles. This is far too many for us ever to be able to solve the equations and predict how the brain would behave, given its initial state and the nerve data coming into it.

One cannot base one's conduct on the idea that everything is determined, because one does not know what has been determined. Instead, one has to adopt the effective theory that one has free will and that one is responsible for one's actions.

The concept of free will belongs to a different arena from that of fundamental laws of science. If one tries to deduce human behaviour from the laws of science, one gets caught in the logical paradox of self-referencing systems. If what one does could be predicted from the fundamental laws, then the fact of making that prediction

could change what happens. It is like the problems one would get into if time travel were possible, which I don't think it ever will be. If you could see what is going to happen in the future, you could change it. If you knew which horse was going to win the Grand National, you could make a fortune by betting on it. But that action would change the odds.

Natural selection seems to lead us to adopting the effective theory of free will. If one accepts that a person's actions are freely chosen, one cannot then argue that in some cases they are determined by outside forces. The concept of "almost free will" doesn't make sense. But people tend to confuse the fact that one may be able to guess what an individual is likely to choose with the notion that the choice is not free. I would guess that most of you will have a meal this evening, but you are quite free to choose to go to bed hungry. One example of such confusion is the doctrine of diminished responsibility: the idea that persons should not be punished for their actions because they were under stress. It may

be that someone is more likely to commit an anti-social act when under stress. But that does not mean that we should make it even more likely that he or she commit the act by reducing the punishment.

One has to keep the investigation of the fundamental laws of science and the study of human behaviour in separate compartments. One cannot use the fundamental laws to deduce human behaviour, for the reasons I have explained. But one might hope that we could employ both the intelligence and the powers of logical thought that we have developed through natural selection.

● Extracted from *Black Holes and Baby Universes* and other essays published by Bantam Press on October 21 at £16.99. All rights reserved.

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TOMORROW

How did the universe begin?



MOJO

For people who know rock & roll

October 15

هكذا قال الامم

So much more than a headache



Migraine can force people to take a rest from conflict at home and work, says Ian Robertson

I remember vividly the day that I lost part of my vision for the first time. The words on the blackboard began to break in pieces. I blinked and looked out of the window. Half of a grim Glasgow tenement disappeared. Every panicky new fixation confirmed that things were breaking up before my eyes. And worse, something was crawling across my vision — a flickering, shimmering mosaic of black and white zigzags, curves and crosses — fearfully alive and growing. I sat rigid and frightened, the teacher's voice echoing somewhere in this new, broken world.

After half an hour it was gone, leaving a pain along the right side of my head and a leaden drowsiness. For years afterwards, every fortnight or so my stomach would lurch at the sight of the first larvae of light squirming in my eyes, and I would wait fearfully for their transmutation to a vast, quivering insect. For five years I kept this secret, until I learnt that I was suffering from a disorder that affects one in ten men and one woman in six in this country: migraine.

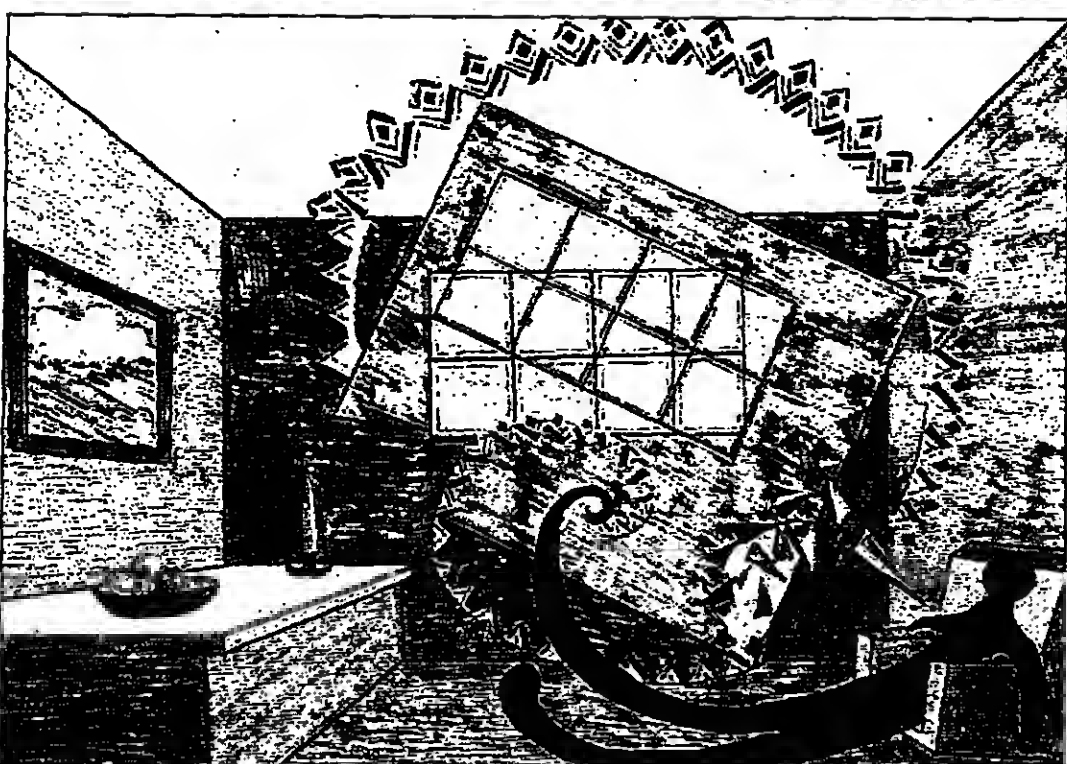
Oliver Sacks has revised and expanded his book on migraine, in which he brings to bear his reverential curiosity for the way the brain and mind can go out of synchrony under the stress of illness or disease. He is not content to be a mere physician, describing how the brain malfunctions but acts as an explorer and interpreter of the meaning of brain disorders. Migraine is precisely that — a temporary disorder of brain function which regularly brings millions of people up against the mysterious interface between our brains, our minds and the world. Migraine does not simply consist of head-

ache; indeed Dr Sacks says headache is never the sole symptom. Commonly, migraine includes gastric disturbance, strange changes in feeling in the body, in mood, alertness and even in speech.

More dramatically, and more rarely, migraine can cause unconsciousness, loss of memory — even paralysis of one side of the body. It can mimic most of the known effects of damage to different parts of the brain, although in all but a few cases these effects are short-lived.

Quite how this happens is not well understood. What is known is that migraines can be triggered by factors including stress (as well as by relaxation after stress), bright lights and loud sounds, sharp blows to the head, premenstrual changes, exercise, alcohol and hunger. "Chinese Restaurant Syndrome" is also a migraine-type reaction to the overuse of monosodium glutamate by some restaurateurs. Migraines also run in families: 60 per cent of migraine sufferers have a family history.

What is inherited may be a tendency for certain chemical messengers in the brain (neurotransmitters) to malfunction in the presence of stressors or triggers. Serotonin and noradrenaline have been suggested as possible candidates, and some of the more effective drug treatments for migraine affect these neurotransmitters. Simple measures can also relieve some pain: a cold compress over the head and face, lying in a darkened room and sleep. Coffee can also help in some cases because of the action of caffeine on the arteries of the head. But, of course, avoiding the situations and stress-



Migraine sufferers use art to express typical patterns they see and strange experiences they endure

ors that trigger migraine attacks is a prevention much better than cure. Whatever the underlying causes, during some migraine attacks parts of the brain are starved of some of their blood supply. Precisely where this happens determines what kinds of temporary breakdown in mental processes take place. Changes in mood, such as anxiety, elation and depression, may also occur.

Many people are frightened of the "aura" — these strange experiences that precede the migraine headache — but some sufferers have made use of them. Dr Sacks says, for instance, that the religious visions of Hildegard, an 11th-century mystic, were migrainous in origin because her detailed descriptions included the classic zigzag and castellated patterns of the migraine. Hildegard's mind, according to Dr Sacks, "filled in" these visual experiences with religious content appropriate to her beliefs. Indeed, Dr Sacks claims that the features of the migraine aura fit well with the qualities of sudden religious experience described by Wil-

Stomach upsets and changes in mood, alertness and speech are all symptoms

liam James in his classic book *The Varieties of Religious Experience*. The pictures above show attempts by migraine sufferers to depict some of their own visual aura.

But Dr Sacks says there is a more widespread — perhaps universal — upside of migraine, namely as a sort of "physiological sabbath". Dr Sacks believes that a migraine expresses physiological and emotional needs, and that the sufferer may need, for a short time, to be ill, in order to allow him or herself to recuperate. Indeed, many if not most migraine sufferers report a boost of zestful energy for a period

after an attack, as if body and mind have been refreshed and re-supplied for the battle of life.

The physical and mental "closing down" or "turning in" of a severe migraine attack can mean different things to different people. For some, it is a refuge from driving themselves too hard. For others it is a refuge from emotional conflict. A few seek refuge from difficult relationships through this temporary illness, Dr Sacks says. He also notes that "the physical symptoms, paradoxically, may be more merciful than the conflicts they simultaneously conceal and express".

But for most people, migraine is not the symptom of some deep emotional conflict. For many, it stems from trying to cram too much into a short day, or of trying to cope with too many competing demands on their time. Twenty years later, for example, my own migraines disappeared after a change of job. I am no longer in need of a physiological sabbath.

● The new edition of *Migraine* by Oliver Sacks is published by Plaidor this week (£20).

How I treated Phil Archer

Dr Thomas Stuttford on Norman Painting's welcome return to Ambridge

So good has been Norman Painting's coronary bypass surgery in Oxford that, as Phil Archer, he can now make the welcome return to Ambridge from Australia, a timely recovery which has spared the scribblers the need to lose him in an outbreak accident.

As well as playing Phil Archer, Mr Painting, 69, used to be part of *The Archers* writing team, a dual role which did little for his blood pressure. His blood pressure, in fact, has been seriously raised for 18 years. Leaving the writing team in 1982 and concentrating on acting did not prevent Mr Painting from having a series of heart attacks within six weeks of adopting a less strenuous lifestyle.

Rather to the surprise of his doctors Mr Painting survived, but in his view never made a full recovery. He became increasingly breathless, so eventually he could only walk a hundred yards (half this if he was carrying anything). He had no energy and found that half a day's work left him as exhausted as a whole day had before his coronary thrombosis. He still had atypical angina, with the pain felt most intensely in the jaw and down the arms rather than across the chest.

His doctors murmured vaguely about possibly having inadequate cardiac reserve, but always softened their opinions by their summing up: "We are not worried, don't you worry".

Mr Painting saw that remark as a non sequitur. He feared that the medical profession saw him at best as an over-anxious actor, and at worst a "nutter".

In the past three years, he has survived pancreatitis (a particularly painful disease because it is usually associated with heavy drinking and his consumption has always been modest); a retinal detachment; and surgery for benign enlargement of the prostate.

Over the past few years too, the Painting blood pressure has grown worse, his heartbeat increasingly irregular and his lungs had begun to fill with fluid as his failing heart was no longer able to pump blood efficiently enough to satisfy the body's needs.

In March of this year, Mr Painting read of the ACE inhibitors in *The Times*. By inhibiting the angiotensin converting enzyme, these are a group of drugs which not only reduce blood pressure by allowing vasodilatation but also improve kidney function. In this and in other ways they have a marked ability

to improve the symptoms of heart failure.

Once Mr Painting started on ACE inhibitors he lost his tiredness, his lungs cleared of fluid, and his heart size was significantly reduced. Emboldened by his improvement, he set about a more permanent cure but found that the waiting time to see the local cardiologist was impossibly long. "I had no faith that I would still be alive by the time my appointment was due," he says.

Fortunately, Mr Painting frequently dines at high table at Christ Church, his college at Oxford. One of the medical dons

came to his rescue and managed to expedite his appointment. Mr Painting was placed on the urgent list for surgery.

Mr Painting's life may well have been saved by first-class surgery, reading *The Times* and having made useful medical friends while dining at his college's high table, but the majority of the 570,000 people in the United Kingdom who suffer from varying degrees of heart failure do not have these advantages.

The ACE inhibitors are a major advance in heart medicine in general, yet currently only 5 per cent of British patients with heart failure have been treated with them at any time. To extrapolate from an American trial (always statistically risky), their use in the United Kingdom would save 28,500 deaths a year and 52,000 hospital admissions.

Drug treatment is not the complete answer. Changing lifestyle, dieting so as to lose weight, exercise (but never violent exercise) and the avoidance of stress are also important. Treatment with diuretics and other drugs may also still be needed.

Not everybody can take ACE inhibitors. Like any other effective drug, there can be side effects. A dry cough is probably the most tiresome; changes in kidney function, in the serum electrolyte balance and the blood count the more worrying. These can be monitored by appropriate blood tests and the drug discontinued if necessary.

The pills and the surgery may have restored Norman Painting's heart to the condition where Phil Archer can take once again a paternal interest in Lizzy's love affair. But perhaps more important, they will have provided a stimulus to both patients and doctors to seek a correct assessment and a modern treatment of heart failure.



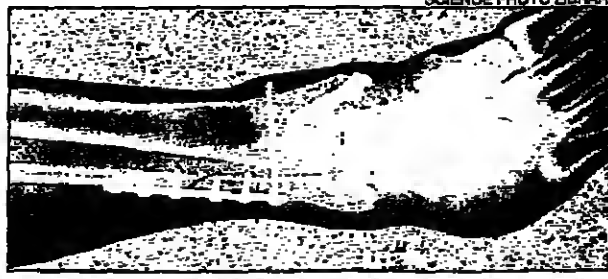
Norman Painting: a welcome return

Unlucky break in casualty

Faulty surgery by inept doctors is leaving fracture victims disabled

EVERY YEAR in Britain nearly one million people break a bone. Whether they make a good recovery from those fractures, or are left with permanent disabilities, may depend on which part of the country they are in when it happens. A recent report by the British Orthopaedic Association (BOA), which surveyed nearly all of the 283 British hospitals providing orthopaedic surgery, concluded that more than 100,000 patients in Britain — 12 per cent of the annual total treated for fractures — suffered severe disability that could have been prevented.

Although there are about 1,000 orthopaedic surgeons in Britain, only a very small number of these specialise in treating fractures caused as a result of trauma (accidents). And the number of places in Britain where you are likely to be treated by a team of surgeons specialising in orthopaedic trauma is smaller still. Three of the main ones are: Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham (where the Prince of Wales chose to have surgery on his troublesome broken humerus); the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford; and the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.



Best way to treat a broken leg: with a plate and screws

MR CHARLES Court-Brown, consultant orthopaedic surgeon at Edinburgh says: "In practice, in Britain, most fracture surgery is done by junior doctors because it is done in unsocial hours. Until very recently there was very little in the way of a career structure for consultant orthopaedic trauma surgeons."

Professor Chris Colton of Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, a member of the BOA report working party says: "Twenty years ago, you had a fracture and you had it set, and it either did well or it

didn't. Then, if it was a bad fracture, you would be left with a problem. Now, in the majority of cases, we expect to get the patient back to normal and that requires the use of quite complex surgery."

He and his team treated Ron Haslam, the former world champion motorcyclist, who came off his bike at 160 mph, suffering an open fracture of his tibia (lower leg) and losing two or three inches of bone in the process. Only 10 years ago, four out of 10 open tibia fractures (in which the bone comes partially out of the leg) resulted in amputation.

Professor Colton inserted a half-inch nail into the tibia running the length of the entire bone to hold the fracture in place. Two months later a bone graft was carried out, using bone from Haslam's pelvis, followed by plastic surgery. As a result, Haslam continues to compete, walks with no trace of a limp, and only notices his former injury when he goes jogging.

There are about 2,500 complex tibia fractures a year in Britain, but in some centres such fractures are still being treated using plaster. Yet Michael Saleh, senior lecturer

at Sheffield and honorary consultant orthopaedic surgeon at the Northern General Hospital, Sheffield, says that for all high velocity tibia fractures (such as those caused when someone is hit by a car bumper) plaster is no longer an option. "If you treat that in plaster the bone will shorten and the foot will turn out."

But, unlike elective operations, where you can exercise some choice over the hospital and surgeon, if you suddenly break a leg or an arm that choice will not be made by you — however good your health insurance policy. You are likely to be too shocked, and in too much pain to decide anything.

Mr Charles Court-Brown says that he would probably put in temporary plaster, and have himself transferred to a specialist surgeon.

Many people believe that, whatever its faults, and however long the waiting lists, the NHS in Britain is still their best friend in a serious accident. But that assumption is now being challenged.

As the BOA report puts it: "The delivery of trauma services in this country has not kept pace with the remarkable technical advances which have been made in recent years... The existing service is widely and readily available and it is perhaps this which has blinded the public to the fact that the standard is not as high as it could be."

lengthening it and causing the bone to grow to fill the gap, minimising disability. It may also be possible to use this method to correct complex fractures that have resulted in leg shortening due to older techniques.

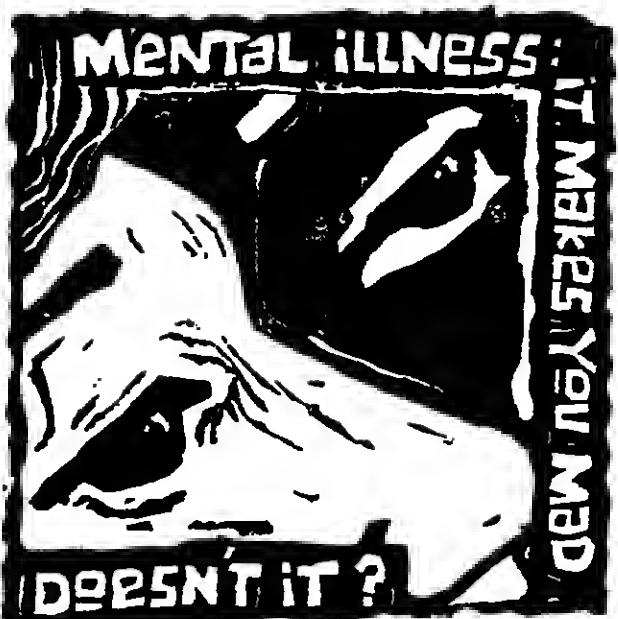
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AILEEN BALLANTYNE



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Lynne Truss



Why is it that people so careless about dying are so keen to be kept alive?

Imagine you are at the hospital, seeing a consultant about your life-threatening heart problem, and he starts to ask you some very peculiar questions.

Doctor: Where did you go on holiday?

Patient: Er, Umbria.

Doctor (significantly, not looking up): I see. Patient (nervously, gabbling): It was lovely, actually. Assisi, er, Perugia... I understand that it's quite taking over from Tuscany...

The consultant still makes no eye contact. Instead, he makes an inky squiggle on a piece of paper and shakes his head. In a flat monotone, he continues.

Doctor: Do you give many dinner parties? Do you chat on the phone to friends? When was the last time you bought a listings magazine? Where do you buy your clothes? Do you smoke? What colour is your patio furniture? Do you use a coffee machine or filters?

Bewildered, you answer these questions as honestly as you can (it's always so hard to remember when you last played backgammon), and then, before you know it, find yourself back in the car park with no angiogram appointment. You light up a cigarette to steady your nerves, and feel slightly better, but naturally you are still resentful. Apparently this chap has made a decision about whether to treat you, based entirely on his attitude to your lifestyle.

Funny word, lifestyle. It sounds so innocent. Yesterday's rally for "Equal Treatment in the NHS", which presented a letter to Virginia Bottomley, complained that smokers are suffering discrimination (and in one famous recent case, actually dying) because treatment under the NHS is becoming "subject to a doctor's opinion of the patient's lifestyle". But search the press release: patio furniture never gets a mention. Nowhere in the literature is there a single case of a person refused treatment because of spending September eschewing Tuscany on account of the champagne socialists. The legendary touchiness of smokers leads them to assume that all discrimination derives from other people's hoi-toi moral disapproval, but in this case it clearly doesn't. Smoking is simply not an aspect of "lifestyle". If a consultant decides not to operate on a smoker, it's because he thinks that to do so would be insane, the equivalent of mending the broken leg of someone who refuses to stop jumping up and down.

So they think they are martyrs, now — forced by an uncaring establishment to suffer for what they believe in. They introduce a herring so red that it glows like coal: that if their illnesses are self-inflicted, well, so are most people's — look at traffic accidents, look at potholes. But the logic is mad. Again I refer to the press release: "Others may be targeted. The relatives of smokers [my italics] are already finding themselves being refused treatment, as four-year-old Anthony Munday discovered when the anaesthetist found out that his mother smoked and refused to carry out his dental operation." Believe it or not, this is cited as an example of prejudice gone berserk, whereas in fact it demonstrates the opposite. The anaesthetist was not the slightest bit interested in the four-year-old's lifestyle ("This child prefers Thomas the Tank Engine to Postman Pat"); he was just concerned that, in the circumstances, the anaesthetist presented a risk.

I am always amused by the well-intentioned practice, in films and television plays, which links smoking only with characters who are bad, dysfunctional or both. The laughable idea is that presenting such negative role-models will put people off. In the first episode of *Cracker* (ITV), that black dog incarnate Robbie Coltrane lit up a fat in the back of a taxi and the driver remonstrated.

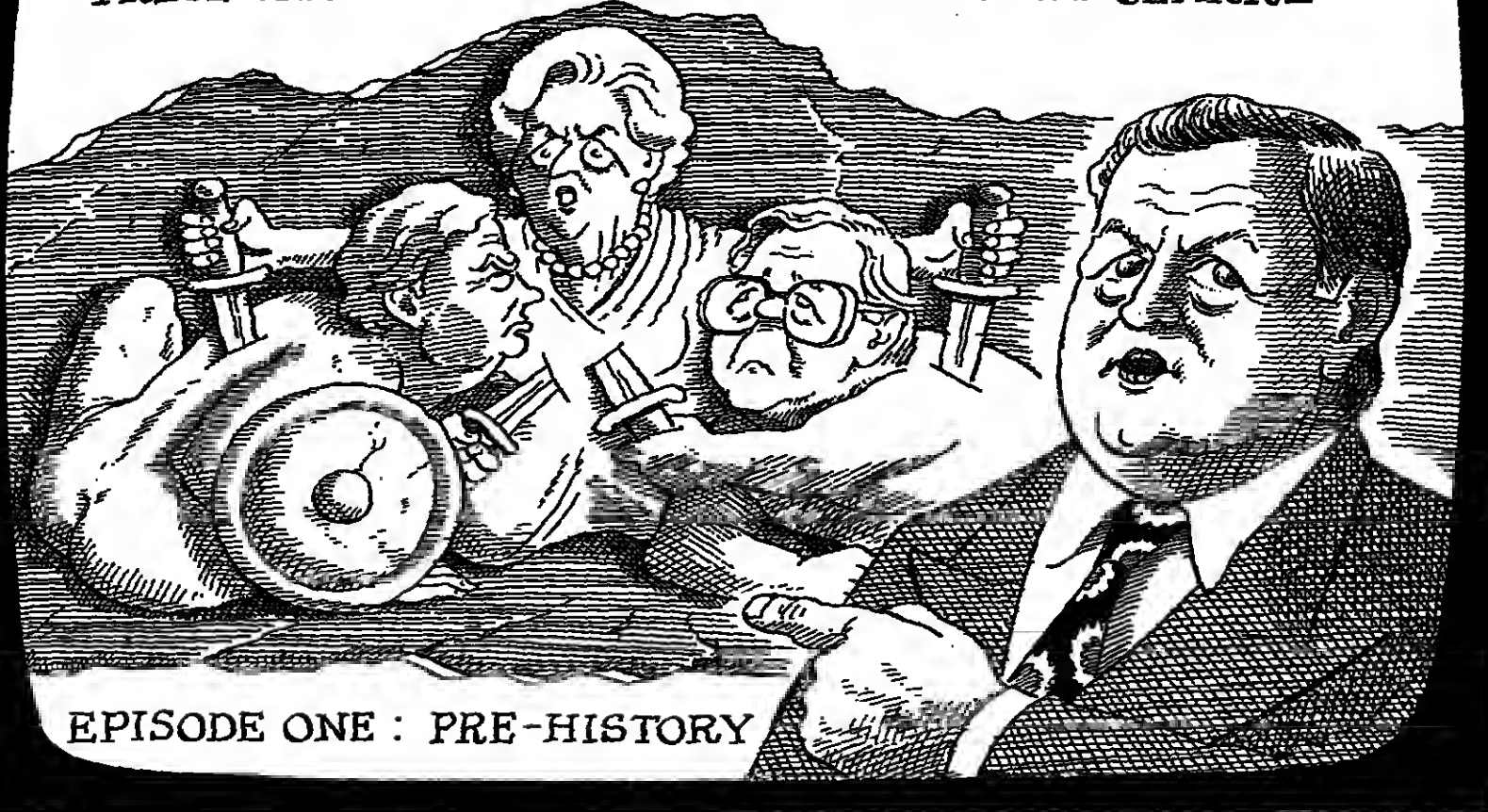
"I'd prefer it if you didn't smoke," he said. "Tough," spat Coltrane.

"It's been scientifically proven that I inhale 20 per cent of everything you smoke."

"You get it for nothing, though, don't you?" The point is, smokers want to be like Coltrane. "Don't talk to us about consequences. We defy augury." Smoking is an open, unambiguous statement of not caring whether you live or die. But tell a smoker, in his own interests, that he has put himself beyond the help of surgery, and strangely he doesn't say, "Yes, and I'm glad, glad!" Instead he calls you a fascist and wheezes up to Whitehall to protest.

CIVILISATION

PRESENTED BY THE OTHER KENNETH CLARKE



EPISODE ONE: PRE-HISTORY

The other people's car

Beetle-browed engineers have found a new way to progress through technology: spy upon the opposition's blueprints

Well I am having the most wonderful time — indeed the best time since I dreamt that I dwell in marble halls, with vassals and serfs at my side. (A diversion before we start: did you know where that immensely familiar opening comes from? I certainly didn't, and I had to look it up, though when I had done so I was little the wiser; I would never have guessed, but it comes from, of all things, *The Bohemian Girl* — dammit, I have heard the thing, and conducted by Beecham, too — which it seems was written by one Alfred Bunn, who was also the creator of Alice, where art thou? What is more, even *The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations* cannot put a conclusive date to his birth year, giving only "1796?". Well, well, learn something every day, my mother used to say, and I have tried to live up to that precept, however serenidiously. Ah, but you all know where that word comes from, don't you?)

Now let us be truly light-hearted. I am, as I say, having a wonderful time, replenished and reinforced every day, with the glorious story of Volkswagen. For those who have thought that there couldn't be real, juicy joy in the business pages, I beg them to get back numbers so as to savour to the full the new scents that are arising from the saucypan daily. For Volkswagen is in trouble — terrible trouble — very terrible trouble, and we can sit on the sidelines — entry free — and bask in somebody else's trouble for hours on end.

(I have no animus against Volkswagen; if it were any other maker of cars the fun would be same, but we must take our pleasures where we find them.)

To set the scene, I quote, from the *Financial Times*:

More than 60 police and criminal investigators yesterday raided Volkswagen's head offices and the homes of several VW executives to search for secret data allegedly stolen from Adam Opel, the General Motors German subsidiary. At 9.30 a.m. search squads simultaneously entered eight separate locations... in the most dramatic move yet in the four-month-old investigation of industrial espionage against Mr José Ignacio López de Arriortua, VW's production director (and what is a man with a monitor like that doing in Germany instead of Madrid, or at the least, Beverlton) and three colleagues. The residences of the four men, all of whom abruptly joined VW from the US group last March, are understood to have been among the targets.

Did you ever? Or at any rate did you almost? What about Klaus Liesen, head of the group's supervisory board (a hell of a lot of supervision that board must have been doing), who had earlier been saying that Señor López was sans peur et sans reproche, and is now saying "I will put my hand in the fire for no one". (Oh, gwan Klaus, not even for José Ignacio López Etcetera?)

Industrial espionage is always good for a laugh; when it is among world-famous names it can be the laugh of the month. Imagine the scene: darkness has fallen, and a figure with a mask and a jerry and socks over his shoes (that's

before the first knocking on the door (I think that should be the first kicking-in of the door) from which to see the fun. In Germany, it seems, they do things differently — very much so — because the bystanders and press were nowhere to be seen, though everybody on the 13th floor knew perfectly well when the police were coming, and why. Some-what dryly, the mouthpiece of the local government said of the raiding: "The Darmstadt public prosecutors' office seems to have as many holes as a Swiss cheese." (I hope he didn't go on to commit the solecism which has whittened many a Swiss head: no, Gruyère does not have holes.

The one with holes is Ementhal.)

Bernard Levin

Mind you, somebody could have had a good start, because — this story gets more charming every time you poke it — two crooks apparently knew about the raid and tried to sell the knowledge to VW for half a million marks, a fortune hope if I ever heard of one. But if you want what is like to be called a left-handed compliment (it is no longer permissible to use the phrase because that would amount to left-handedness), try Luiz Schilling, who is the director of communications at VW, but has a somewhat eccentric idea of communications and indeed of direction, for the enormity with which he lauded his comrade when he was interviewed went like this: "We are happy to have López. He is the best manager in the field, the state prosecutors will give a complete picture at last."

Meanwhile, what about Opel/General Motors? If you will pass me another bucket of "allegeds", I shall fill you in; this bit is even more remarkable than what has gone before. It seems that Opel are behaving like all the Knights of the Round Table put together; instead of screaming for the VW Robin Hoods to be hanged

immediately, and indeed twice over, they are trying to come to a friendly and equitable arrangement which would leave neither combatant with *Kaiser-schmarren* or *Huhnerruppe* on his face. Indeed, when the two comen tried to get a slice of the action from VW, Opel's vice-president dismissed the business, saying it was nothing but questionable behaviour by individuals and that, "In general our respect for VW and its employees is unchanged."

Clearly the panic is not in either of the two boardrooms; in fact the hot potato is being tossed back and forth among members of the government. The economics minister, Günter Rexrodt, has been shuttling between the two camps, while Chancellor Kohl is tearing out what little hair he has left.

And we, the spectators, have been having it all free, since I imagine that few will be buying VWs or Opels until there is real harmony between the companies. (I wouldn't want to scuttle the peace-talks, but isn't this the perfect moment for Mercedes or BMW to rush huge convoys of their salesmen to the battlefront?)

If you are looking for a conclusion to this stroll through nothing very much, or even some serious instruction in the situation of the car industry, I fear that you are going to be disappointed, and if you get shirty and start demanding your money back I shall say — first pausing to go into italics — *Dulce est desipere in loco*.

And why not? Do you know what the world is like out there with Somalia and Bosnia and Angola and many more nations ending in an *o*? And those nations will not be satisfied until one faction has murdered every member of another faction, and vice versa. And please do not go all priggish and say that the poor shareholders in Opel or VW were depending on the forthcoming dividend and many of them will now be unable to feed their children, because if you say it I shall point out that those who have tried it have been unanimous in saying that a six-month-old baby simmers in a good stock and with a bayleaf or two is perfectly delicious.

Wasn't the Volkswagen Hitler's idea? If I recall correctly, the manufacture and sale of them was getting under way when the war began, and he promised the people who had put up their money like that they would have their car as soon as it was over. I could have told them that Hitler was a dodgy salesman.

Speak up for free speech

Anthony Lester on proposals to restrain the press

An actor lies gravely ill in hospital, attached to a life support system. His picture is taken by intruding press photographers. A minister in a government full of schemes to make fathers more responsible is revealed as having serial mistresses. Another minister's foreign holiday comes courtesy of a PLO paymaster's daughter.

Which of these is a private matter, of which public disclosure is of public interest but not in the public interest? Which of them should not be published, out of respect for personal privacy? Most people would find the taking and publishing of the photograph reprehensible. Most would want to safeguard the privacy of hospital patients. Most would also wish the media to be free to inform us about what ministers get up to in private. One danger of the government's approach to privacy, signalled in its papers "Infringement of Privacy" and "Open Government" (consultation on both of which ends on Friday), is that we shall have patients sleeping easily in their beds and ministers sleeping easily in other people's (politically as well as sexually) — all protected by a sweeping right to privacy.

The government's proposals address anxieties about privacy, intrusion, taste, official secrecy and freedom of expression, in a confused and fragmented way. The starting point ought to be that free speech must be paramount in a democratic society. A coherent and balanced scheme would guarantee (i) the right of the media to publish and of the public to receive information and opinions, with narrow and carefully-tailored exceptions for competing public interests (such as protecting fair trials, national secrets, reputation, copyright, confidential information and personal privacy); (ii) a public and enforceable right of access to government information; (iii) a right to be protected against unwarranted intrusions on personal privacy by the state and the media; and (iv) a private right of access to personal information held about us by public bodies. The government's proposals give effect to (iii), especially (and with overkill) against the media and to (iv), but not to (i) or (ii).

A government which regards the media as its enemies will never create a positive right to free speech, or a public right of access to government information. Instead it offers a soft code of practice, to be monitored by the ombudsman, and not enforced by the courts.

Incredibly, even though Parliament narrowed the official secrecy law four years ago, "Open Government" hints at introducing further criminal sanctions for unauthorised disclosure of government information, arguing that civil proceedings may not suffice because government departments "have no private life or personal feelings capable of being hurt by the disclosures". There would be no public interest or "whistleblower" defence.

Without a general right to free speech, the proposal for a general right of privacy enforceable against the media is objectionable, especially in a country where unbalanced libel laws are used to cover up scandals of Robert Maxwell proportions. The European Commission of Human Rights has clearly explained that the right to free speech must be taken into account when creating remedies for the infringement of privacy, and that the lack of a general right to privacy in English law does not breach the European Convention.

The government has not needed this important advice. Nor has it given effect to the Law Commission's sensible proposals for breach-of-confidence legislation. Instead it proposes to legislate excessively in a way required neither by the Convention nor by abuses in this country. Privacy complaints to the Press Complaints Council (PCC) last year were only 7 per cent of all complaints against the press. As for common law remedies, Gordon Kaye obtained an injunction against the *Daily Sport* for its monstrous invasion of his privacy while in hospital (though based on malicious falsehood, not privacy). Given the chance, the Law Lords would surely develop further effective remedies on a case-by-case basis, if the strengthened PCC failed as a voluntary regulator.

Successive governments have persuaded our courts to extend common law protection for government privacy and secrecy (*Crossman Diaries* and *Spycatcher*). Yet this government greedily seeks much broader statutory protection in a way that endangers free speech in a modern democracy. Suppose that a minister suspects a newspaper is about to publish embarrassing but truthful evidence about his "private" misconduct. He will apparently be able to obtain an interlocutory injunction preventing public disclosure of this information, even though the newspaper is ready to prove that it is true and that its disclosure is in the public interest. This would be *Spycatcher* revisited with a vengeance, and a further breach of the Convention's free speech guarantee.

The problem of how to define and apply a public interest defence to a right of privacy, and how to avoid such unnecessary interferences with free speech caused the Younger Committee (in 1972) and the Calcutt Committee (in 1990) to oppose the creation of such a menacingly general tort.

"Infringement of Privacy" begins with an ill-chosen quotation from *Paradise Lost* (Book IX, 249). *Whitelash* should have studied Milton's *Areopagitica* — that eloquent defence of the right to publish without prior censorship. The author was leading counsel for The Sunday Times in the *Spycatcher* case.

Hair and everywhere

PURELY on the basis of a lack of raw material, there is little likelihood of John Smith ever doing a Bill Clinton by paying £54,000 for a short back and sides on the end of a runway. The same, however, might not be said of the Smith women, Elizabeth, his wife and daughters, Sarah, Jane and Catherine, all of whom boast splendid heads of hair.

But Elizabeth Smith is clearly well briefed on the need to keep public-sector expenditure under control, even while in Opposition. She says Blackpool stylist Pat Wood just £20 a go for a cut and blow-dry — even when Wood has to travel hundreds of miles.

Mrs Wood, a finalist in last year's British Hair Awards and owner of the September Hair Studio in Blackpool, travels to London or Edinburgh whenever Mrs Smith's hair needs attending. "I've been doing Mrs Smith's hair for a year now. I see her about once a month, sometimes travelling to the Smiths' home in Edinburgh, sometimes to London or conference venues."

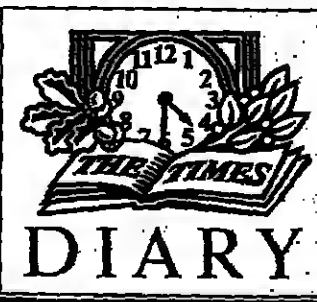
"We have been growing her hair and developed a soft bob with a side fringe," she says. Recently Wood also tended the Smith daughters' spectacular tresses at

the Labour party conference in Brighton. Wood, who was introduced to Smith by Andrew Collinge, the Vidal Sassoon of the North-West, does not charge travel expenses, because she travels widely for a hair product training team. "It's a matter of Mrs Smith and me checking our diaries and arranging a mutually convenient time," she says. Wonder when they've got a general election pencilled in?

Spectator sport

IT MUST be somewhat galling for Dominic Lawson, editor of *The Spectator*, chess buff and chum of Nigel Short, *The Daily Telegraph*, which asked him to write weekly articles on *The Times* World Chess Championship has decided to drop him — for the time-being at least.

Lawson, who has championed Short throughout the contest, is said to be upset at being dropped, but understandably refuses to comment — the *Telegraph* group, after all, owns *The Spectator*. But Trevor Grove, deputy editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, explains: "We did agree right at the beginning that should the steam go out of the contest, we would reconsider



our coverage. For the time-being he has been asked to stand down. If Nigel Short had a resurgence, we would think again."

Lawson has at least fared better than *The Telegraph's* other much-vaunted chess writer, Donald Trefford. His accounts of the match disappeared from the paper almost a month ago.

Fair weather aficionados the lot of them.

Another grand entry

ALTHOUGH his performances may be rare, Lord "Dickie" Attenborough intends to be a serious player when he enters the House of Lords later this month. Friends insist that once ensconced on the Labour benches, he will not only good ministers on behalf of the British film industry, but lobby for charities too.

First he must go through the

bowing and doffing ceremony, clad in the ermine, sponsored by his old friend Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos and — adding a hint of Jurassic Park — the leading medical researcher Lord Walton of Deichant.

Lord Cledwyn, the doyen of Labour's benches, says: "Dickie is genuinely proud he is coming here, and anxious to make a contribution. He is a likeable extrovert and has immense experience. It is a good thing for the Lords."

Even so, Lord Attenborough of Richmond upon Thames might be well advised to stick to tradition at the introduction ceremony, by shaking hands with the strait-laced Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, rather than kissing him on both cheeks and calling him darling.



Fawning Fawley

BARONESS THATCHER'S description of William Waldegrave as "slim, cerebral and aloof" — a sort of Norman St John Stevas without jokes — has gone down reasonably well with the now Lord St John of Fawley. He's particularly pleased about the "slim".

But he's less happy about Thatcher's rider that Waldegrave "seemed likely to be even less of an ally". Not fair says Fawley, who was one of the first casualties of a Thatcher reshuffle in 1981. "I was always a personal supporter of Margaret Thatcher. She offered me a place in the government later, but I was not in agreement with the basic policies or I would have taken it."

He still, however, talks of his affection and respect for Lady Thatcher. "She only had two real friends in the cabinet at that time — myself and Sir Keith Joseph." And for Fawley, at least, loyalty is life-long. "Even after I left the cabinet I never criticised her."

Quick on the draw

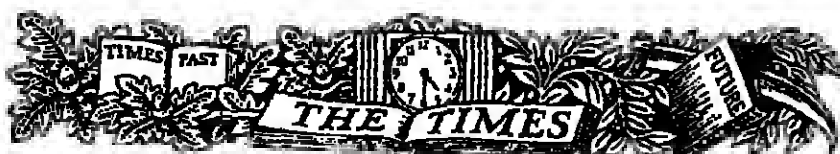
STEPHEN WILTSHIRE, the autistic savant who recently revealed a remarkable ear for music, is not letting his extraordinary drawing skills slip. Wiltshire has started a foundation course at the Architectural Association School.

Margaret Hewson, Wiltshire's agent, says he is taking the course to stimulate himself. "The course is about deconstructing preconceived ideas about building and using new technology to find new ways of thinking about space," she says. The cost of the one-year course is being met by a group of sponsors, including Lord Palmbo, chairman of the Arts Council. Quite how far Wiltshire, now 19, will pursue his studies is as yet unclear, but to qualify as an architect could take another seven years. A decision will be taken at the end of the academic year, says Hewson.

But Wiltshire is not limiting himself to an architectural training: he's shortly to begin lessons at the Royal College of Music — in drumming.

● John Major's swing to the right is already yielding results. When the Oxford Union tonight debates a motion of no confidence in the Major administration, guests who will be speaking in support of the government? Step forward Sir Teddy Taylor, Baroness Thatcher's host in Southend last month, and Andrew Rosindell, chairman of the Young Conservatives, and leading light of the "hang 'em and flog 'em" faction at the Tory conference. As Toby Lewis, president of the Oxford Union, says: "It looks like being a broad alliance of Conservatives."

سكرا من الاصل



RED RAG TO A GENERAL

Nato should remember who are Boris Yeltsin's protectors

Russian tanks on Moscow's streets are a dramatic reminder of the military's influence within the federation and beyond. President Yeltsin has acted speedily to reassure Russia's Caucasus neighbours, arguing that hardliners in the Russian parliament were vocal in support of Russian military involvement in their countries, much of it malign. Mr Yeltsin is now offering himself as a peacemaker in the Moldovan, Armenian and Georgian disputes — tests of his skills and good faith that the West should watch. But there are other shifts in Mr Yeltsin's posture which may be less welcome.

The spectre of civil war in Russia will, not unreasonably, intensify the eagerness of some Eastern Europeans to join Nato. Just before the tanks rolled, however, Mr Yeltsin abruptly withdrew the blessing he had appeared to bestow on their membership only two months ago. In a letter to Western leaders he has now given warning that Russia would view any such widening of Nato as a breach of the treaty on German unification. Last week, Nato was asked by Moscow for suspension of a key article in the 1990 treaty reducing conventional forces in Europe. The Russians now want to station more tanks in the Caucasus than the 7,000 the treaty permits.

The West cannot agree to reopen the treaty, a cornerstone of post Cold War efforts to stabilise Europe. But the West may have to choose either to join conflicts in a region which Russia claims as its unstable post-Cold War frontier or to "re-interpret" the treaty quietly in Russia's favour. A flat no, at this delicate juncture for Mr Yeltsin, would be folly. Western governments must be convinced, however, that Moscow has stability, not imperial reconquest in view. The Russian army's murky role in Abkhazia is just one reason for scepticism.

President Clinton appears to pay little heed to Mr Yeltsin's renewed opposition to enlarging Nato. The White House has confirmed that the Nato summit in January will concentrate on ways "to deepen Nato's engagement in Europe's east". Yet in Brussels, Nato ambassadors have been simultaneously parading their "determination to work to forge closer ties to Russia". These two objectives may not be compatible. The Russian military has almost a paranoia about being encircled by its foes. The new Nato, open to Eastern European concerns, can be reconciled with the goal of a "strategic partnership" with Russia only if that core fear is kept in mind. Defence secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, sought to allay Russian alarm in Moscow

last month, rightly saying that Nato must not create "new areas of contention and mistrust". France and Britain have long counselled caution; but even Germany, hitherto publicly enthusiastic about bringing Eastern Europe into the Nato orbit, has been changing course quickly since the Yeltsin letter. In Prague on Friday, the German defence minister, Volker Rühe, told his hosts that admitting new members to "the old Nato" was secondary to forming new strategic partnerships in Europe from which "we cannot exclude Russia".

Mr Yeltsin's letter may be part of a so far hidden bargain with the military to purchase their loyalty in his moment of crisis. But that is less important than understanding what his commanders want and what they fear. The list of grievances is long, and by no means confined to the uncomfortable and, in their eyes, humiliating conditions of the troops withdrawn from Eastern Europe. They suspect Western motives in former Yugoslavia; they complain bitterly that the West overlooks violations of the civil rights of Russians in the Baltics; they are suspicious of US-Russian co-operation in space programmes. Even to some of Russia's best-educated and liberal military, "defence conversion" is a Western euphemism for disarming Russia.

The countries of Eastern Europe have turned their faces full westward, subscribing with remarkable firmness to liberal democracy and free markets. The West can and must reward and encourage them, opening its markets and welcoming them quickly to the European Community. It can also do much through Nato's new North Atlantic Co-operation Council to develop "best military practice". But these looser ties will have to suffice until the ancient and still unresolved debate in Russia between the "Atlanticists" in the reform camp and nationalists hostile to and suspicious of "Westernisation" is securely settled.

That could take some years. Eastern Europeans should understand the dangers better than anybody. Sympathetically but clearly, the West must repeat to them that Nato will do what it can, step by step; but that it must not, and will not, give Russia's military cause to decide that Mr Yeltsin's westward tilt betrays Russia's security. There is no point in welcoming Poland to Nato, only to expose it, and the alliance with it, to grave peril on its eastern front. For the January summit to set anything like a firm timetable for enlarging Nato — even one linked to membership of the European Community — would be an unnecessary risk.

EHEU, FUGAX LEX

For Oxford to drop Roman law after eight centuries is too hasty

A most radical thing came to pass yesterday at Oxford. For the first time since the twelfth century Roman law will not form a compulsory part of the curriculum for undergraduate law students. As a result of a putsch in the law faculty, an awkward, hybrid creature called "Introduction to Law" will be offered as an alternative to those taking their first public examination, or "Mods".

The Romanists are alarmed. Peter Birks, regius professor of civil law and a brave captain of the sinking Roman galley, says that the *Institutes* of Justinian are as important as the alphabet. "Roman law has been taught at Oxford since 1180. Whereas that, of itself, is not an argument for its uncritical retention, it is an argument against its hasty rejection." He believes, as many others do, that Roman law must form a part of the breadth of legal culture that is aimed at by Oxford, where undergraduates find their law, and their legal instinct, for themselves.

Oxford's law faculty has witnessed profound demographic change in recent years. Tutors are younger, there are more women and many who were not themselves undergraduates at Oxford. This change has resulted in a dilution of love for Roman law on high table. The new kids on the block have fought for a revision of the curriculum

in the name of progress, and regard Roman law as being obscure and fussy. Their brainchild, "Introduction to Law", is intended to provide essential bread-feeding for undergraduates early in their course.

It can be argued, however, that much of the content of the new course is already covered in other subjects, such as jurisprudence, constitutional and administrative law, land law and contract. It is sobering, also, to note that Justinian himself warned against "overloading the mind of the student, while yet new to the subject and unable to bear much, with a multitude and variety of topics". In any case, Roman law already provides an introduction to law and to Western legal thought. At this point in Europe's history it gives common lawyers a delicious insight into the law and methods of civilian jurisdictions on the Continent.

Roman law is an endangered species at Oxford. "Introduction to Law" has struck another blow at classical education. The new subject, joylessly utilitarian, cannot be expected to inspire undergraduates in the way that Roman law can do. As a gloomy Roman law tutor (who naturally wished not to be named) said: "The Other Place is now the Better Place." Roman law is still compulsory for undergraduates at Cambridge.

CHURCHILL FOR SALE

The photocopier could be the saviour of our national heritage

The disposal of the literary legacy of a British icon is not to be taken lightly: read softly on a nation's dreams. But the fate of Winston Churchill's vast personal archive, the Chartwell papers, parcelled in 1,210 boxes, was bound to stir special passions.

The trustees of the Chartwell papers have a fiduciary duty to ensure that his descendants get a good price. That is most likely to come from abroad. Churchill College, Cambridge, with American financial backing, has already built an archives centre to house, conserve and catalogue the documents, and is naturally anxious to stop the auction houses getting hold of the collection and dispersing it. After months of negotiation an agreement to secure their purchase for the nation is said to be close.

Some vociferous historians have been offering to fight on beaches, shores and in the columns of newspapers to keep all Churchilliana British. At its most lurid, this unusually patriotic school of historians warns that the Chartwell papers may fall into the hands of museums based in the former Axis powers of Germany or Japan. But even the prospect of their purchase by a rich American university like Texas, raises a collective shudder. Curious.

Churchill is hardly a prophet without

honour in his own country: all politicians, particularly Tories, still pay homage to his name. But America's devotion to the house of Marlborough's greatest son dwarfs even that of the British. Churchill biographies are still best-sellers there; those Americans with just a little learning recount anecdotes about his life more freely than the ordinary Briton. If anything, they are far too ready to tell you their creaking Churchill/Margot Asquith stories. Would the Americans really make such unsuitable owners for the papers of the world's most famous half-American?

The *soi-disant* custodians of our island story are suffering from an identity crisis that is not exactly British. De Gaulle's papers would never be sold overseas by the French, they argue. Certainly not. But the British are not the French, or even the Americans. Institutes for the preservation of the English language, for the protection of the national identity against the foreigner, are not welcome here. The British sense of insufferable superiority would hardly be dented by the loss of an archive which could in any case be photocopied for research. We wish those involved in keeping the Chartwell papers in Cambridge the best of luck. But some of their supporters need to keep a sense of proportion.

Jarring tone in Tory speeches

From the Reverend Kenneth Leech

Sir, Some of the speeches at last week's Conservative party conference must represent a low water mark in the party's recent history: in terms of their lack of intellectual content, their vulgarity, and their appeal to the lowest instincts of the more prejudiced members, they must surely give cause for grave concern.

There was Mr Patten's use of "nutter" and "madman" to describe an academic of whom he disapproved (report, October 7; letters, October 11). There was Mr Lilley's insulting language about "foreigners" (language not dissimilar to that used by the British National Party in Millwall recently report, October 7). And, running through a number of speeches, there seemed to be an odious combination of discourtesy, contempt and xenophobia, and a type of cultural sluggishness quite at odds with any understanding of tradition.

How did this all square with Mr Major's call for "core values", including "decency", "civility" and "respect for others" (report, October 9)? Or were his words addressed primarily to his own colleagues, from whose lips these virtues were sadly missing?

One thing is clear. Unless there is a conscious repudiation of these populist trends within the party, it will rapidly lose the respect of people who have a concern for traditional values.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH LEECH,
St Botolph's Church, Aldgate, EC3.
October 11.

From Sir Peter Smithers

Sir, The Chancellor of the Exchequer told the Conservative party conference that "any enemy of John Major's is an enemy of mine" and "any enemy of John Major's is an enemy of the Conservative party" (report, October 8). This is not the language of statesmanship, neither is it likely to promote loyalty within the party.

It is improbable that so transparently nice a man as the prime minister has many enemies. But he and certain of his colleagues, evidently including Mr Clarke, cannot think it conceivable that there should exist within the party strongly held views which differ from theirs, and which far transcend personal loyalties. If one is not "politically correct" it seems that one is an "enemy".

I am reminded of student politics on an American university campus. Britain and the Conservative party deserve a better style in government than this, and calling names will not win a general election. To do that will require the rediscovery of the art of government.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
PETER SMITHERS,
6921-Vico Morcone,
Switzerland.
October 8.

From Ms Liz Rorison

Sir, Lady Thatcher writes of Sir Geoffrey Howe: "Above all, I suspect, he thought he had become indispensable, a dangerous illusion for a politician" (memoirs extract, *The Sunday Times*, October 10).

A classic case of pot and kettle.

Yours sincerely,
LIZ RORISON,
9 Aberdeen Court,
Aberdeen Park, N5.
October 10.

From Mr C. R. Anderson

Sir, "We have listened too often and too long to people whose ideas are light-years away from common sense" — John Major's speech at the Conservative party conference (report, October 9).

Like the Treasury, perhaps?

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS ANDERSON,
3 Spicers, Ashdell Park,
Alton, Hampshire.
October 9.

From Mr D. S. Walker

Sir, Does the frantic waving of the red ensign at the Tory conference raise hopes of a belated revival in support for a fast-disappearing merchant navy?

Yours faithfully,
D. S. WALKER,
66 The Rise, Foultonland,
Newcastle upon Tyne.
October 9.

That's justice

From Mrs S. M. Manley

Sir, Two adjacent items in a "News in Brief" column (October 6, later editions) highlighted the imbalance in the sentencing policy. A "Gerbil killer", who admitted to killing three gerbils, was sent to prison; a "Fatal driver", who admitted causing death by dangerous driving, was ordered to do community service.

Yours faithfully,
S. M. MANLEY,
78 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge.

Business letters, page 29

Yesterday's letter on sentencing policy from the director of the Prison Reform Trust should have read: "... many doctors are now budget-holders, free to exercise their clinical discretion but subject to the limitation of what the public purse can stand."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Are the courts being fair to women?

From Mr Amrit Biswas

Sir, Your leader about the jailing of women ("Prisoners of prejudice", October 5) made assertions that I find contrary to my experience as a magistrate for more than 22 years.

The generalisation you made by citing the specific case of Sara Thomson, that in sentencing a convicted woman the bench expects a higher standard of behaviour, is fallacious.

No doubt, in sentencing a woman to prison, as is also the case for a man, the bench considers the seriousness of the crime, the suitability of the alternatives, and the convicted person's other relevant circumstances, including family circumstances. The custodial sentence remains one of last resort.

In property crime, unless aggravated by other factors, I have yet to come across a case in which a person is sent to prison on his or her first conviction. To suggest, as you do, that the bench harbours "preconceptions of what is 'appropriate' behaviour for the female sex" in sentencing is contrary to my experience.

The suggestion of Helena Kennedy, QC, that social enquiry reports should be obtained is not new. It is the usual practice for the bench to ask for a presentence report, encompassing the convicted person's relevant circumstances, when a custodial sentence is considered.

Yours sincerely,
AMRIT BISWAS,
19 Shipfield Close, Tatsfield,
Westerham, Kent.

From His Honour Judge Robert Taylor

Sir, Your leader suggests that women are unfairly treated by the English criminal justice system because they

"seem to be more likely than men to be sent to jail".

According to the *Criminal Statistics for England and Wales 1991* (the most recent available), custodial sentences for indictable offences were passed in all courts on 16.5 per cent of male offenders but on only 5.2 per cent of female offenders. For the more serious offenders, in the Crown court, the proportions were males 46.4 per cent, females 21.7 per cent. These figures indicate that men are much more likely than women to be sent to jail.

I also find it very hard to reconcile your suggestion with my own experience. In 32 years' involvement with criminal courts I have never seen a woman sentenced more harshly than a comparable male offender would have been. On the other hand, I have certainly known cases where a woman was treated more leniently than a man would have been, usually because the court was keen not to separate her from dependent children.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT TAYLOR,
Bradford Court Centre,
Exchange Square, Drake Street,
Bradford, West Yorkshire.
October 6.

From Mr Richard Lines

Sir, Judges, magistrates and ordinary people, according to your leading article, "find criminal behaviour more shocking in women than men". This is because on the whole women do behave better than men. Their influence, whether as wives, mothers, sisters or daughters, has traditionally been seen as a civilising one.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LINES,
38 South Vale, Upper Norwood, SE19.
October 6.

Not amused

From Mr Patrick J. Wye

Sir, It rains in London. Somebody should advise the marketing officers of Buckingham Palace. The precautions taken to prevent the Queen from getting wet when it rains should be extended to her customers. An investment in some awnings is required and perhaps a visit to Disneyland to see how crowds can be moved in comfort.

Visiting the palace is now a "must" on visitors' tour lists but the conditions are just dreadful. Perhaps some lessons will be learnt for next year (report, October 1).

The unsheltered line in The Mall (I waited around one hour) could be avoided by having more ticket kiosks.

Bee sting treatment

From the Reverend Jonathan V. H. Russell

Sir, An effective desensitisation treatment against bee stings is available in this country and might well have saved Professor Ralph Johnson's life (inquest report, September 30).

I too suffered a massive allergic reaction to just one bee sting, and descended into anaphylactic shock and unconsciousness within minutes. Fortunately I survived this alarming experience and was subsequently referred to the insect allergy clinic at Guy's Hospital.

Thanks to the excellent treatment there and at the Kent & Canterbury Hospital, involving 30 monthly injections of bee venom, given and observed under strict medical conditions, I can testify to the success of desensitisation.

Shortly afterwards, whilst attempting to find the way through Rouen, an unfriendly French bee flew through the open car window and stung me on the temple.

The family held their breath and prepared a life-saving injection of adrenaline, but this precaution was

not necessary and no abnormal reaction occurred.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN RUSSELL,
(Former beeper),
The Rectory, Selling,
Faversham, Kent.

From Professor David A. Warrell

Sir, Desensitisation and advice about preventing dangerous anaphylactic reactions to bee and wasp stings is certainly available in a number of centres in Britain. The reason why my late colleague, Professor Ralph Johnson, was unable to take advantage of this treatment is clear from your report. He did not realise that he had become hypersensitive: "He had been stung before, but had not suffered any particular reaction."

The usual warning signs of the development of hypersensitivity are progressively more extensive local swelling after consecutive stings or a systemic reaction characterised by widespread nettle-rash, shock or breathing difficulties.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID A. WARRELL,
Venom Clinic,
Churchill Hospital, Oxford.

Furthermore, in recent times many other civil servants have been moved off the head counts of departments and onto the payrolls of non-departmental public bodies.

Of those remaining, most of the losses have been among blue-collar civil servants. The white-collar Civil Service has declined at a rate well under 1 per cent per year. These are hardly the "huge and damaging cuts" in the bureaucracy that Mr Sheldon claims.

Yours sincerely,
EAMONN BUTLER
(Director),
Adam Smith Institute,
23 Great Smith Street, SW1.
October 6.

Civil service cuts

From Mr Eamonn Butler

Sir, Mr J. D. Sheldon, too, is "selective" in his "use of data" when he argues that Civil Service numbers have been cut by 178,000 since 1979 (letter, October 6). Only a fortnight ago he was citing the figure of 167,000 (letter, September 21) — where the other 11,000 have come from is a mystery.

I think Mr Sheldon has misread the statistics in the final table of *Civil Service Numbers*. At first glance this indeed shows a 1979-92 contraction from 732,000 to 565,000. But 39,000 of this reduction result from moving Royal Ordnance, dockyards and special hospitals off the books.

Sensible precaution

From Mrs Susan Carson-Rowland

Sir, Regarding Marie-Antoinette's apology for stepping on her executioner's foot (Charles Bremner's article, September 30), it should be plain, even to those feminists induced by suspicion and resentment to see simple courtesy as "ingratiating servility", that whatever of good manners or their lack, it is the height of folly to rile one's executioner.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN CARSON-ROWLAND,
Barnstead,
141 Ecclesfield Road,
Chapeltown,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire.
October 1.

It has to stop

From Mrs Barbara Godfrey

Sir, After reading Matthew Parris (article, October 4) on the silly kissing code, I have decided to design a sticker showing a pair of fat ruby lips crossed through with a diagonal line, like the "no smoking" sign in our front porch.

But my husband and I cannot escape kissing our friends in Britain, where we have a holiday home. On each visit we exchange four Breton-style mwah-mwahs, back and forth on each cheek, whenever we meet. Even the children put their faces up for a

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Mauritius judge 'forced to quit'

From Mr Anthony Scrivener, QC, and others

Sir, May we draw to your attention a matter concerning the independence of the judiciary in a Commonwealth country.

On July 15, 1993, the prime minister of Mauritius, the Right Honourable Sir Anerood Jugnauth, QC, directed the carrying-out of a deportation order upon a Sri Lankan woman at the very moment that her application for a stay of execution of the order was being heard by Mr Justice Robert Ahee, one of nine judges of the Supreme Court of Mauritius.

The judge referred the matter to the Director of Public Prosecutions for investigation of a possible contempt of court following the recent decision of the House of Lords in *Re M*, which held that the home secretary in his official capacity was susceptible to contempt proceedings.

On the next available day in parliament the leader of the Opposition asked a question concerning this case, to which the prime minister replied by accusing the judge of presenting an obstacle to the machinery of government and of having conducted himself inappropriately in another case.

The judge's "offence" in that case had been to request the immigration authority to consider the possibility of not deporting an Angolan woman before he had time to deal with her application in his chambers.

Only the legal profession has protested at these remarks, which are in our judgment an unwarranted criticism of the judge, who was perfectly properly exercising his judicial functions, but which we are informed have been the immediate cause of him seeking early retirement from the Supreme Court.

Mr Justice Ahee is held in the highest esteem by the people of Mauritius. His judgments are internationally respected and his imminent departure is contemplated with dismay by both the Mauritius Bar Council and the Law Society, who have passed separate resolutions in his support.

We believe that the loss to the Supreme Court of Mr Justice Ahee in these regrettable circumstances will seriously affect the reputation of and the confidence in the administration of justice in Mauritius. We join with the Bar and Law Society of Mauritius, as well as the hundreds of individuals from all over the world who have written to him expressing their support, in urging him in the public interest to remain.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY SCRIVENER,
LOUIS BLOM-COOPER,
MICHAEL MANSFIELD,
PHILLIP SAPSFORD,
WILLIAMS OF MOSTYN,
c/o Thomas More Chambers,
51-52 Carey Street,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
October 7.

Nurses' uniforms

From Mrs Cheryl Blaber, RGN

Sir, What a lot of nonsense about nurses' uniforms. I for one am thankful that, slowly but surely, nursing is leaving itself free of such useless traditions which have previously entailed monstrous linen apparitions to be perched on top of our heads, starched aprons around our person and black tights around our legs (letters, October 1).

Smart and comfortable apparel is all that is required; it is the care being provided which commands respect, not the clothing it is wrapped up in.

Yours faithfully,
and in my own clothes,
C. R. BLABER,
158 Jermonds, Harlow, Essex.
October 4.

Seatbelts on buses

From Mr Andrew Chubb

Sir, I share the distress of Mr Robin Bye (letter, October 4). His plea for making seatbelts compulsory on school buses is unlikely to be given a sympathetic hearing in Somerset. My daughter travels on a school bus. On September 27 Somerset County Council informed me in writing that "3 children under the age of 14 at the start of the academic year may be required to share 2 seats". What chance of seatbelts?

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW CHUBB,
Westvale, Leigh, Chard, Somerset.
October 4.

petit bisou — from men and women alike. With the continual hand-shaking as well, a stay in Britany can be quite wearing.

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA GODFREY,
1 Simon's Place, Alderney, CI.
October 5.

From Mrs Bernadette Pennington

Sir, I would be delighted to join Matthew Parris in a campaign, Against Social Kissing (Ask). I shall pin a label on myself: "Do not kiss or I will bite."

Yours faithfully,
BERNADETTE PENNINGTON,
Daleford Cottage,
Whitegate, Cheshire.

LADY GLENNAVY

Post-budget tough times start to ease

Tough times in the relocation industry are showing signs of easing. A severe slow-down since April, with business volumes slashed by nearly half on some estimates, looks likely to turn round to rapid recovery, with the greatest acceleration by the early weeks of the new year.

The industry was badly hit by changes introduced in the Budget that capped tax-deductible relocation expenses at £8,000. Shocked companies, faced with a rise in relocation costs of at least 30 per cent, put many planned personnel moves on hold. This was understandable because the average overall cost of moving a key employee within Britain approaches £25,000 while an expatriate move is likely to cost about £50,000.

The specialist relocation companies — among them Black Horse Relocation, Hambro Countrywide, PHH Homequity and Nationwide — have since introduced schemes which mitigate the effect of the capping. Many of the tax advantages of relocating have been restored, it is claimed, although some details are still being ironed out with the Inland Revenue.

The essential element in the schemes is that an employer buys the moving employee's home at a market price. That does not give rise to a taxable benefit for the employee — rather as an employee selling back shares in a company at the ruling market price is not regarded as gaining a taxable benefit.

The position is the same if a relo-

Lost tax benefits that froze many employers' plans are being restored, says Derek Harris

cation company acts as the employer's agent in putting through a house-buying deal. Once the property is transferred to the employer all spending relating to it is set against the employer.

Nationwide, part of the building society group, has estimated that, with the Budget change, a move costing a total of just over £23,000 could have left the employer footing a bill for more than £33,000. That amount would include the cost of grossing up taxable expenses to offset the employee's extra tax bill. However, with a mitigation scheme Nationwide puts the cost to the employer at just over £23,500, saving about £9,500.

As soon as the Budget changes were known, many companies froze their moving plans, and individual moves bore the brunt. There are estimated normally to be 70,000 fully assisted moves annually, of which just under a third are dealt with by relocation companies. Of those at least 55 per cent are individual moves, typically career moves.

During the 1980s boom, when office rents spiralled, especially in London, many big companies looked to relocation to the regions. Not only were property costs much lower away from the capital but often there was relief from paying a London weighting on salaries. There was also the appeal of a better quality of life away from a big city.

The collapse of Britain's commercial property market, which sent office rents plunging, put this trend into reverse. The gap between London office rents and those in the provinces almost disappeared. Inevitably companies put their moving plans on ice.

There are now signs of steady improvement according

to John Carolan, managing director of Black Horse Relocation, part of the Lloyds Bank group and the market leader in Britain's relocation sector.

Mr Carolan says: "There was a severe downturn from April after the surprise Budget announcement. Now we are starting to see a very rapid recovery which will be more marked in the new year as companies are given the financial headroom of new budgets."

An oil group's move produced an extra benefit, reports David Thurlow



David Tinkler found that esprit de corps improved when staff moved to offices under one roof from scattered buildings in central London

It is not just the army and armed robbers who need to plan their operations with military precision. When it comes to moving 1,000 employees spread over six offices in Knightsbridge, London's smartest shopping area, to one central office in the heart of Docklands on the Isle of Dogs, planning at the highest level is essential.

This was the task that faced David Tinkler, corporate services manager at Texaco, UK subsidiary of the New York global oil group, when it decided to go to a bright, airy and crescent-shaped eight-storey building at Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf.

It was more than a physical move. It also meant creating a community spirit among a staff who rarely met.

The decision was made in 1988 because leases on the offices were

coming to an end and the 1960s style of corridors with executives behind doors did not fit into the high-tech communications age in which Texaco now operates. The company needed a building of 250,000 sq feet and Docklands was easily the first choice, but the decision disappointed many of the staff who liked the shops and cafes of Knightsbridge. Their objections to Docklands included poor transport, extra travelling time, and the lack of

shops, eating places, infrastructure and other people.

Texaco recognised their fears and involved them in the move at every stage. The staff were consulted on several key issues, including the cafeteria facilities and, crucially, the furniture for the 800 workplaces in the new open-plan offices — provided by Knoll International.

The move was delayed by six months because of the developer Olympia and

York's crash at Canary Wharf, but when the changeover came, in February and March this year, everything was ready, David Tinkler says. "The move itself was boringly free of teething problems. It went very well indeed."

One employee, Gwyneth Hughes, says: "Travelling was seen as a problem but I think most people agree that it's not half as much a problem as they expected. The facilities are very good and the offices light and airy. The move has been a great success."

There is an unexpected bonus from the move — a team spirit that was impossible to achieve before. Mr Tinkler says: "That has happened for two reasons: it is a much more pleasant working environment and when you work in a higher quality environment it rubs off in your business."

Destination Docklands

London's status still undimmed

The capital's image remains bright despite the lack of a main co-ordinating authority, says David Crawford

LONDON'S image as an international business location has been boosted by its lead ranking in the 1993 European Real Estate Monitor, published last month by the property consultants Healey & Baker. The survey was based on the opinions of

527 senior executives in nine countries who were polled by the Harris Research Centre.

It shows London retaining the leading position, over Frankfurt, as Europe's future financial capital. More significantly, London appears for the first time as the best option in terms of cost and availability of staff.

With available central area accommodation (including that under construction) of 23 million square feet, London is in a strong position to compete on both domestic and continental fronts. Joe Valente, of DTZ Debenham Thorpe Research, points to the property cost differential between London and regional centres falling from £40 a sq ft in the late 1980s to £5 a sq ft now.

But although the recession has slowed the outward flow — not least because of occupiers' difficulties in disposing of the space being vacated — some large moves out are still in prospect. British Telecom, for example, is planning to

Historically rivals, Westminster, the City of London and the London Docklands Development Corporation have recognised that administrative boundaries mean little to overseas companies. They therefore joined forces to set up a First Stop Shop, with financial support from the local authorities, the private sector and, it is hoped, the government, for the estimated £3 million annual running costs.

The shop, due to open in the West End by Easter 1994, will function as the centrepiece of any promotional campaign and stimulate improvement of

the commercial environment. Michael Whitaker, Westminster city council's policy officer, says: "London needs a business plan like any other large organisation. We see the shop interacting with organisations such as the London Chamber of Commerce and the CBI London region. The shop will be run as a subsidiary organisation of London Inward, the commercial (as opposed to tourist) arm of the London First/London Forum which are soon to merge."

In Docklands, Canary Wharf's emergence from receivership will clear the way for major infrastructure im-

provements, principally the Jubilee Line extension. It will also stimulate new interest by potential tenants in the wake of the decision by Mirror Group Newspapers to move from Holborn into five floors of Canary Wharf Tower.

Recent arrivals at Canary Wharf include Texaco, the New York-based oil group, which chose Docklands for its relocation from Knightsbridge early this year because, in the words of Peter Bijur, Texaco Inc senior vice-president: "Moving out of London would have sent a message that Texaco was becoming less strong as a force in British life. Also, our demographic studies showed that the least number of employees would be disadvantaged if we stayed in London."

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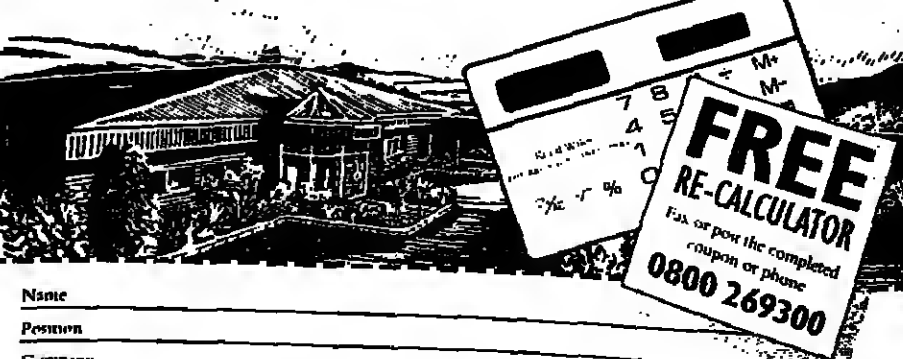
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هيكلة من الاجل

New towns battle on

Competition to win investment from UK and overseas concerns is hotting up, reports David Crawford

For Britain's 26 new towns and 13 urban development corporations, the battle for new inward investment has sharpened dramatically. Options include the attractive deals available in established business locations, including parts of the South East which now enjoy assisted area status, while overseas companies are being heavily wooed by European rivals.

The competition is growing hotter all the time, says John Walker, chief executive of the Commission for the New Towns, who has just returned from the Hong Kong Property Show. "Our strength, however, is that we have one of the best ranges of development land available, with choices in virtually every region of Britain backed up by the support we offer. We have had a recent upsurge in enquiries and are currently targeting about 100 key companies."

The commission, which is responsible for the remaining land assets of the 21 English and Welsh town development corporations, has been vigorously promoting their attractions in America as well as the Pacific Rim countries. "Our aim is to add to the 1,000-plus overseas companies already operating in the new towns," he says.

The commission, the largest development landowner in the country with 18,650 acres in its portfolio, covers areas that include Redditch, the Worcestershire town where March Packaging recently moved its cardboard manufacturing plant from the south coast, to such high-profile destinations as Telford, in Shropshire, and Milton Keynes, both of which have enjoyed good success rates in attracting foreign investors.

As with other southern new towns, regional financial assistance is not available and the sales message has to emphasise the commercial advantages. A promotional drive at Bracknell, Berkshire, has resulted in office lettings totalling 270,000 sq ft over the last 12 months — largely to companies in computing and financial services, among them Novell, Honeywell and Mortgage Services.

Peterborough's message has been boosted by the establishment of the Cambridgeshire Unit, a specialist agency backed by the county and district authorities to put the case for relocating to parts of

the county rather than Cambridge city, which is under heavy pressure. Peterborough has already attracted big employers including Thomas Cook and Pearl Assurance.

Arrivals from overseas include the city's first Taiwanese company, Yuyang Industries, taking advantage of office rents starting at £8 a sq ft and what Patsy Beaumont, general manager of Coca-Cola Schweppes telephone sales business, calls a "high proportion of the right sort of staff".

Work is now under way on Peterborough's new southern township, a £500 million private project backed by Hanson plc which could provide a model for the future now that the government has announced that there will be no more publicly funded new towns on greenfield sites.

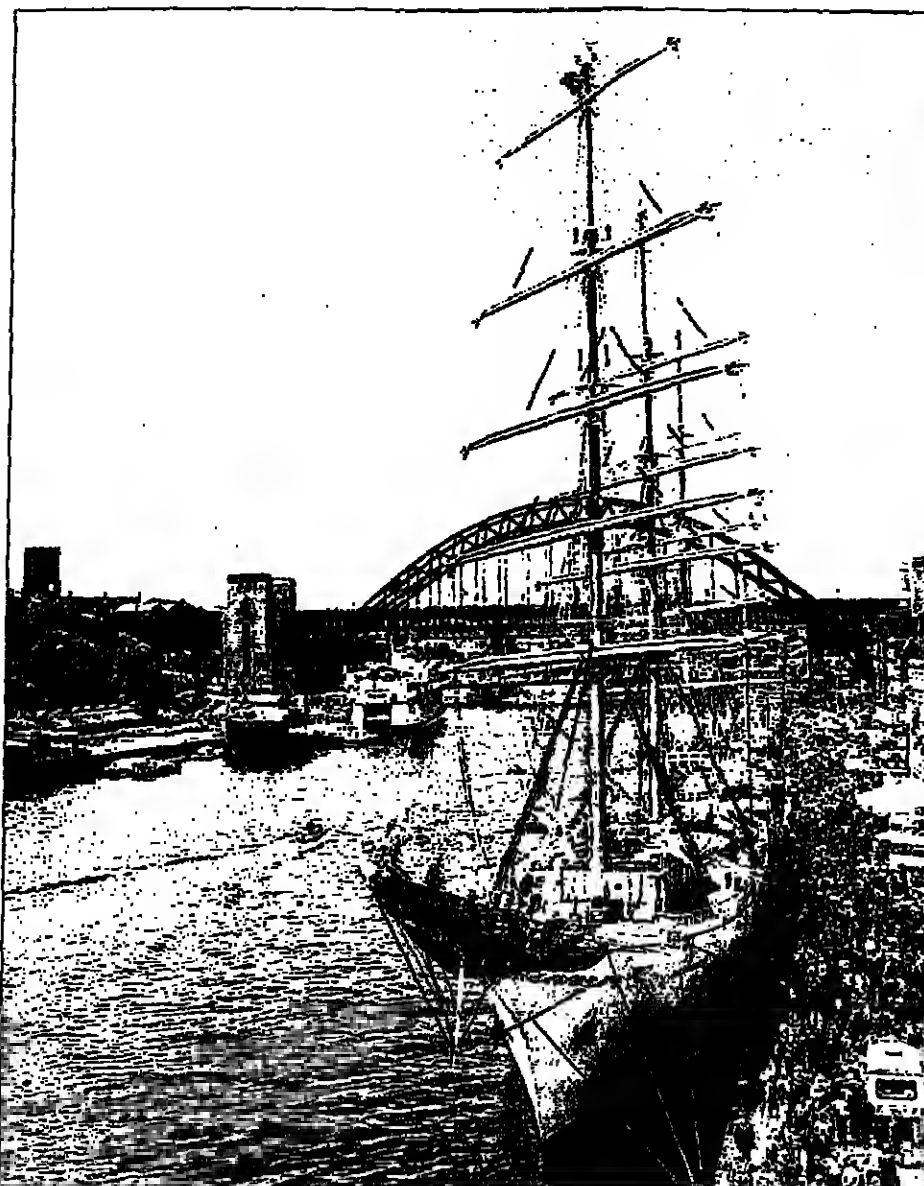
The urban development corporations, introduced in 1981 to mark a switch of emphasis to inner city regeneration, are currently responsible for over 40,000 acres of reusable land — including former Ministry of Defence sites transferred to Plymouth udc.

Nationally, reclamation is running at 3,500 acres a year, with the aid of regional and local financial incentives to encourage private-sector development back into outworn areas — and often substantial infrastructure investment.

For example, the Black Country Spine Road is the most important road construction project in the West Midlands since Spaghetti Junction. It will open up more than 250 acres of land in the Wednesbury area in a bid to re-establish the region as a manufacturing powerhouse.

The oldest udc, Merseyside, is using public-sector commitments by Customs and Excise, the Child Support Agency and the Land Registry to emphasise its skill base to the private sector. Barclaycard has invested £10 million in its first purpose-built regional centre at Wavertree Business Park, while Heraeus Silica, the German infra-red equipment manufacturer, has opened on the Wirral side of the Mersey.

Cardiff Bay, set up in 1987 to regenerate Cardiff's run-down docklands, has established an early reputation as a financial centre by attracting companies such as the Dutch-based NCM Credit Insurance and the Prudential Investment in the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation, where one mil-



Newcastle Quayside, a prestige project which was the start of this year's Tall Ships Race

lion sq ft of new office space is occupied or under construction, has dramatically raised the profile of the Welsh capital, with a recent NOP survey of 200 professionals showing the city up from seventh to first place among potential relocators.

To maintain the momentum, however, there is widespread agreement on the need for a start on the Cardiff Bay barrage, which will create eight miles of permanent waterfront as a setting of high environmental quality. Royal assent is expected by the end of this year.

The importance of environmental investment is recognised at Tyne and Wear, where the development corporation and the AMEC subsidiary NDQ have commissioned the architect Terry Farrell to provide a masterplan for the 24-acre Newcastle Quayside.

Tyne and Wear has achieved some significant recent successes. Kong Wah, Hong Kong's largest manufacturer of television sets, is building its new European factory at Simonside, in South Tyneside, while Cincinnati Bell's telecom subsidiary Matrix Marketing has chosen Newcastle Business Park as its British base.

Moves without tears

Rodney Hobson on the issues a relocation company can help with to ensure a successful changeover

One relocation move was being held up because a key employee refused to go. No one could understand why. The new location was attractive, the incentive package was generous and the rest of the staff were willing to go.

Finally, the relocation company prised the objection out of the employee. Gran was in a nursing home and the family could not bring herself to abandon her. Only when a similar nursing home was found in the new district could the move go ahead, Gran and all.

That story, told by Steve Abbey, managing director of PHH Homequity, gives an insight into why relocation companies are determined to create more comprehensive services to gain an advantage in what has become a highly competitive field.

Relocation companies have found that the proportion of employees who object to a move has grown with recession. The desire to cling to a job has been outweighed by factors such as negative equity in the employee's home. Many people simply cannot move unless the package solves their specific problems. As many as a quarter of employees or their families dig their heels in.

Mr Abbey comments: "The employer decides to move, the relocation company provides a package but the employee is the piggie in

the middle who tends to get forgotten. Those 25 per cent who object become 100 per cent of the problem because if the company wants them to move then each objector has to be dealt with separately."

Nationwide Relocation says it is women who suffer most, even when the move is a result of promotion for a high-flying female executive. Its research showed that women who relocate find it harder than men to adjust to

manifests itself in feelings of frustration and stress which, long term, can damage the relocation programme and initial settling-in period for the executive, partner and children."

That is one of many issues being looked at by relocation companies.

The speed with which the relocation industry has grown is demonstrated by the fact that the market leader, Black Horse Relocation, a subsidiary of Lloyds Bank, was formed only 10 years ago. It claims a 32 per cent market share last year and handles more than 6,000 moves a year.

Hambro Countrywide Relocation, the third biggest in the industry after Nationwide Relocation, moved 2,500 employees last year, taking its total so far to 15,000. Michael Lansley, managing director, reckons that office moves can cut a company's efficiency by 30 per cent if not properly handled — a good reason, he contends, for employing a specialist relocation company.

He says: "The thinking behind a move is complex and cost is only one factor. It is a combination of needs, the main one being the right location for the business's long-term strategy. Transport infrastructure is of major importance as is the right kind of labour, followed by the cost of living and quality of life."

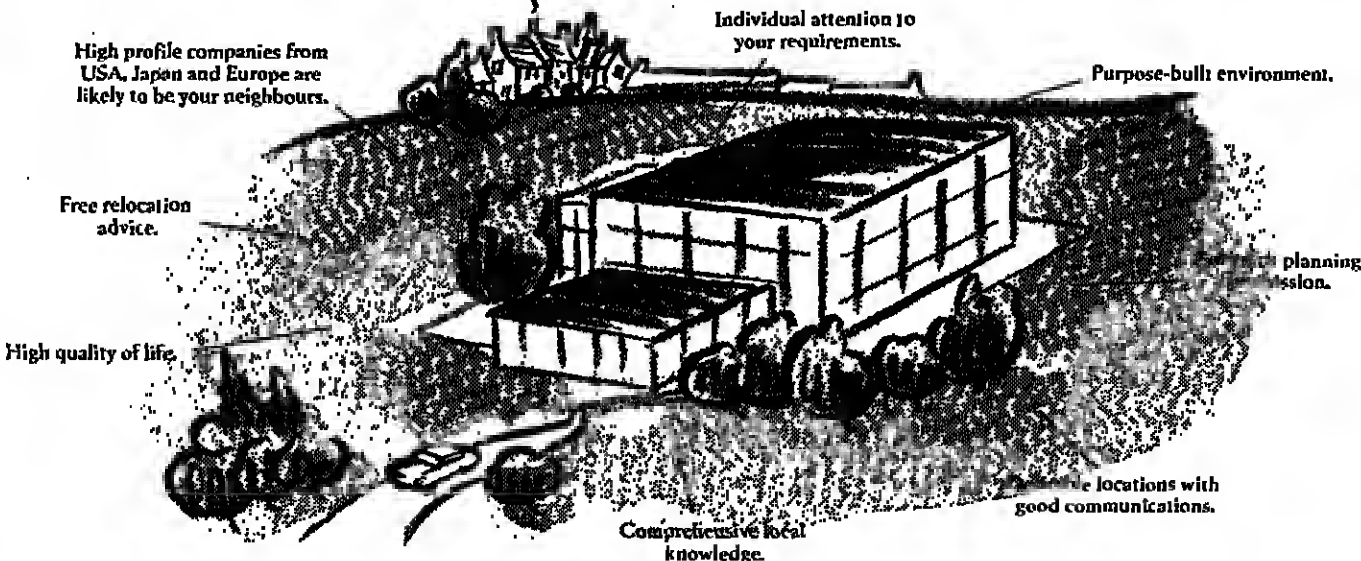


Lansley: eye on efficiency

new colleagues, are more concerned about breaking social ties and more inclined to worry that the move is outside their control.

Mike Spencer, sales and marketing director at Nationwide Relocation, says, however, that 90 per cent of key executive relocations are undertaken for male executives.

He says: "In many cases the spouses are denied any real control or input regarding the relocation and this



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NEWS

Fears that recovery is faltering

Falling exports to recession-hit Europe and a rise in factory gate prices added to fears about the strength of Britain's economic recovery. A business survey said a widening of the trade gap is expected in the coming months.

The figures emerged as Kenneth Clarke began a sustained effort to slash billions of pounds from Whitehall budgets, prompting further worries that the construction industry, so vital to the recovery, could be badly hit. Page 1

Charities fight threat of tax relief axe

Many of Britain's leading charities held emergency meetings to fight proposals to strip them of tax concessions. Save the Children, the Spastics Society, the Royal National Lifeboat Institute, Barnados and others are all opposed to plans to end their charitable status. Page 1

Diplomatic confusion

The Clinton administration's deployment of troops in Haiti and in Mogadishu, the American emphasis on diplomacy left Somalis confused. Pages 1, 11

Nobel winner

A Briton was awarded the Nobel Prize for medicine. Dr Richard Roberts, aged 50, shares the \$825,000 prize with the American, Dr Phillip Sharp, for genetic research. Page 1

Radio 5 closedown

BBC Radio 5 is to be replaced with a 24-hour news and sports service, after the governors offered a reorganisation that will affect millions. Page 2

Carey plea

The Archbishop of Canterbury called for an end to the "unrelenting, corrosive criticism" of Britain's political leaders. It was, Dr George Carey said, undermining their authority. Page 2

Sentence criticised

A father was jailed for six years for the manslaughter of his four-year-old daughter and the attempted murder of his estranged wife. A retired judge criticised the sentence as "lenient". Page 3

Graduate gloom

Employment prospects for graduates have reached a 20-year low. Little more than a third of those graduating in 1992 were known to be in permanent employment. Page 7

Oxford rules out Roman law

Eight centuries of tradition came to an abrupt end at Oxford University as Roman law ceased to be a compulsory subject for undergraduate lawyers for the first time since 1180. The change, forced through by young dons, has split the law faculty. The new introductory course has a sociological bent, with Roman law remaining as an option. Page 1

Sinking Britain

Low-grade farmland along parts of Britain's erosion-prone coastline may be abandoned to the waves under a new government strategy. Page 8

Plea for mercy

Campaigners are pressing Michael Howard, the home secretary, to move a woman serving life for murder in Durham prison to an open prison closer to her family. Yvonne Sleightholme, who is blind, was convicted of killing her boy friend's wife. Page 9

Discordant note

Chill winds are rattling the roofs of Tin Pan Alley. The pop music business, which is Britain's third largest export earner, accounting for 20 per cent of worldwide sales, is in trouble. Page 10

Japanese cheek

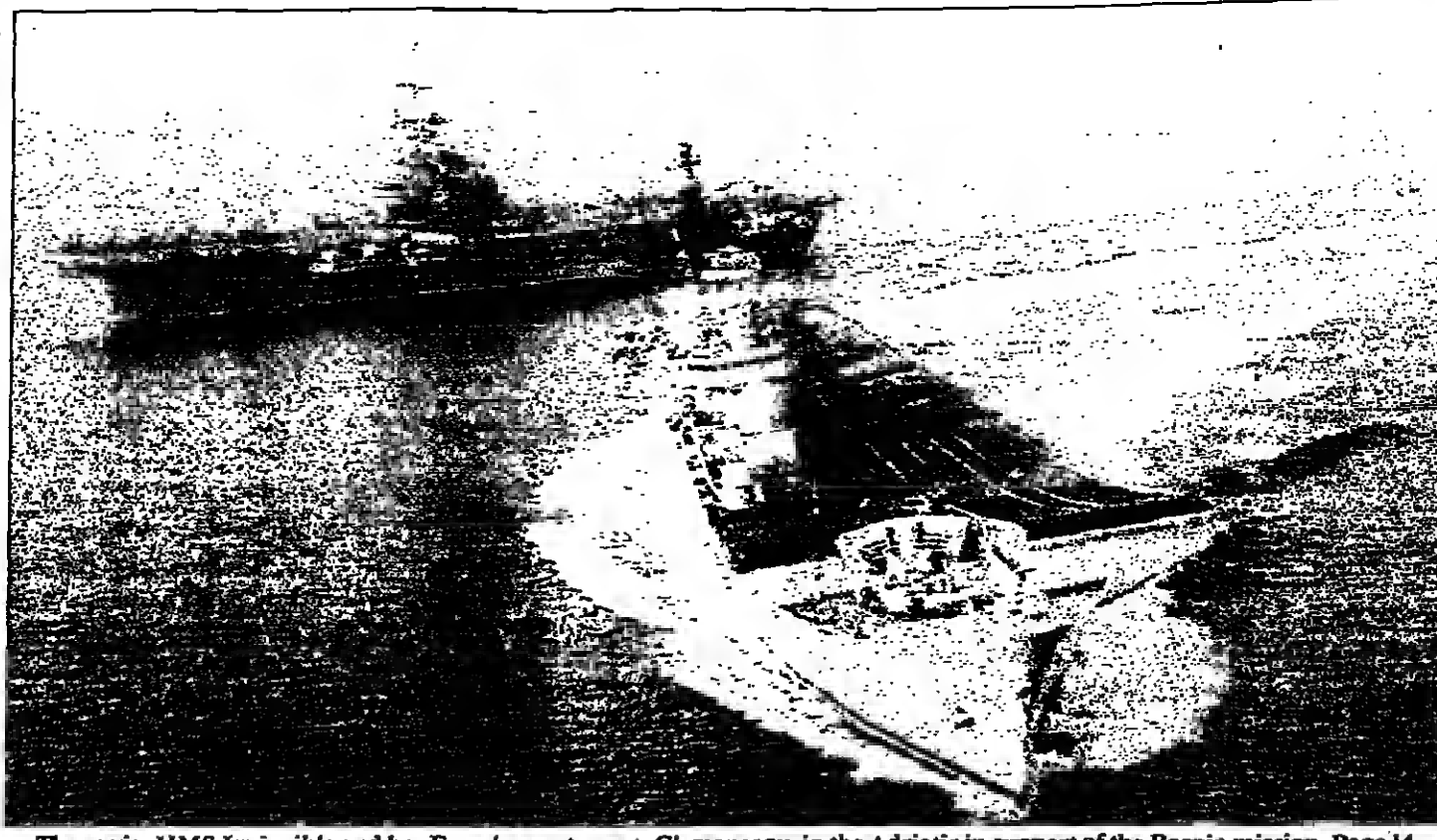
The hitherto obsequious royal watchers of the Japanese press have begun sharpening their pencils to poke fun at the Emperor and Empress. Page 11

Yeltsin summit

President Yeltsin finally touched down in Japan for the state visit that has been cancelled twice in the past 13 months. Page 14

Maastricht relief

From today — when the German constitutional court is expected to give a qualified approval to the Maastricht Treaty leading to ratification — Maastrichters can begin to relax. Their city will disappear from the world headlines. Page 15



The carrier HMS Invincible and her French counterpart, Clemenceau, in the Adriatic in support of the Bosnia mission. Page 14

BUSINESS

Markets: Holidays in Japan and America subdued currency markets but the dollar recovered some of the ground it against the mark. Against the pound, the dollar rose a third of a cent to \$1.5317. The German stock market's 30-share DAX index closed at a new high of 2,021.02. The FT-SE 100 ended 6.4 lower at 3,102.2. Page 28

Eurotunnel: The Channel tunnel will open to passengers next June but the final cost is now estimated at £10 billion. Pages 25, 29

Coal: Privatisation offers the best hope of achieving the largest economically viable coal industry, according to Tim Eggar, the energy minister. Page 26

SPORT

Football: If England, Wales and Ireland win tomorrow they will each take a significant stride towards qualifying for the World Cup finals. Pages 46, 48

Motor sport: The Williams team has confirmed that Ayrton Senna and Damon Hill will be its drivers in next year's Formula One world championship. Senna will move from McLaren to replace Alain Prost. Page 48

Rugby union: Stuart Barnes, the Bath and England stand-off half, will miss the opening round of divisional championship matches because of a knee injury. He was due to captain the South and South West, the holders. Page 48

FEATURES

Crit de coeur: France's aggrieved males have found a new hero. Yves Roucaute. His books take a flamethrower to the Second Sex: Charles Bremner on male angst. Page 16

Temporary disorder: "I remember the day I lost part of my vision. Something was crawling across my vision — a flickering, shimmering mosaic of black and white zigzags, curves and crosses. Ian Robertson on migraines. Page 17

LAW

Child support: Solicitors predict that in 18 months, defaulting fathers will be clogging up the courts through non-payment of increased payments. Page 35

ARTS

Colour coded: Having despatched the ten commandments in modern film form, the Polish director Krzysztof Kieslowski has started on the Tricolor: the first film, *Blue*, is about a woman's quest for liberty. Kieslowski reveals his methods to David Robinson. Page 39

Only Ken: "Is anybody in the theatre more authentically odd than Ken Campbell?" asks Benedict Nightingale. He reviews the eccentric's trilogy of one-man plays at the National Theatre. Page 40

From Russia, with bass: The Glinsk State Choir of St Petersburg, now touring Britain, has made a huge impact on audiences entranced by bass voices. Page 41

TV LISTINGS

Germaine Greer attacks the cult of youthism, and finds an ally in Joanna Lumley, in the return of the arts series *Without Walls* (Channel 4, 9pm). Page 47

OPINION

Red rag to a general

For the January summit to set anything like a firm timetable for enlarging Nato — even one linked to membership of the European Community — would be an unnecessary risk. Page 19

Eheu, fugax lex

Roman law is an endangered species at Oxford. "Introduction to Law" has struck another blow to classical education in England. Page 19

Churchill for sale

The fate of Winston Churchill's vast personal archive, the Chartwell papers, parcelled in 1,200 boxes, was always bound to stir special passions. Page 19

COLUMNS

BERNARD LEVIN

Volkswagen is in trouble — terrible trouble — very terrible trouble, and we can sit on the sidelines — empty free — and bask in somebody else's trouble for hours on end. Page 18

ANTHONY LESTER

A government which regards the media as its enemies will never create a positive right to free speech, or a public right of access to government information. Page 18

Are the courts being fair to women? Also: Tory in-fighting, Mauritius justice, nurses' uniforms and civil service cuts. Page 19

THE TIMES TOMORROW

No squatting — by law

The government is planning a high-speed law to evict squatters. Rachel Kelly asks whether criminalising the problem will reduce the numbers

Calling the tune

How Radio 4 was saved: Alexandra Frean reports on the biggest, and most successful, licence-payers' campaign to tackle the BBC management

Pictures at an exposition

Gas Hall in Birmingham is Britain's newest art gallery: £100 million of treasures will grace the walls that once looked down on Brummies paying bills

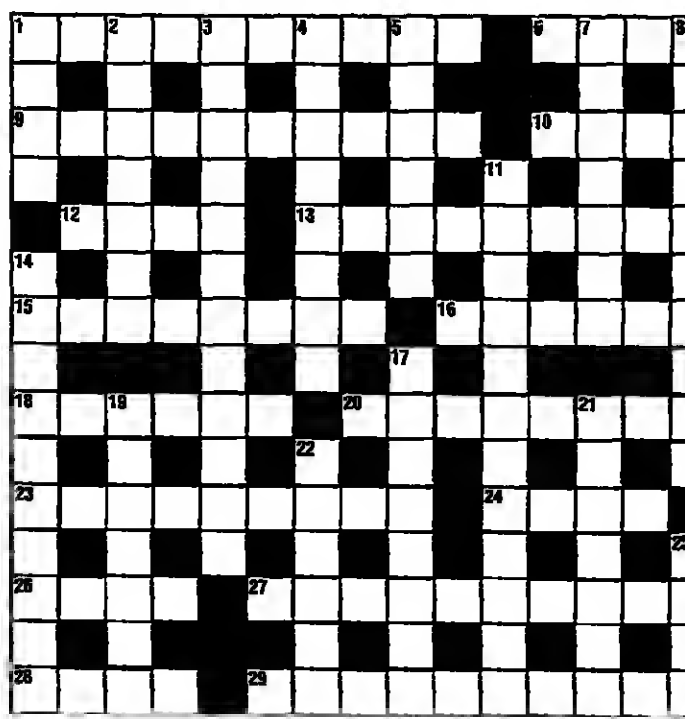
We've had so much rain this summer and autumn that, if there's any more talk from officialdom about drought, heads must roll

Ending the US moratorium on testing would be a mistake; it would only weaken worldwide support for tighter restraints on proliferation

Foreign friends can help to see South Africa into democracy, but it falls to South Africans themselves to lead the assault on apartheid's awful legacies

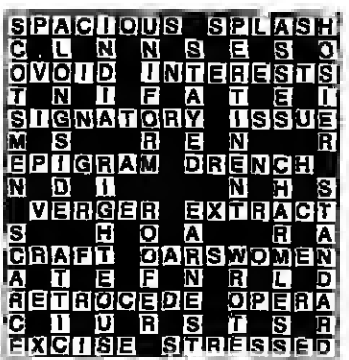
Washington must work for a stable Haiti that is not destroying itself at home and exporting refugees to the United States

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,359



- ACROSS**
- Grand old Australian making the most of his prospects? (4-6)
 - Small drink for a footballer (4)
 - Plant Pickwick's friend provided for each one at first (10)
 - Partners each year absorbed in bridge (6)
 - Spills flunkies' retirement (4)
 - Virile copper in mother's branch of the family (9)
 - Insinuation originally uttered in French during pub function (8)
 - Weaver practising abstinence in a period of prosperity (6)
 - Medication required by a royal supporter (6)
 - Former athletics official — one with a lot of experience (3-5)
 - Manual for clergyman involved in practical jobs at home (9)
 - Gem of a girl loses head to nobleman (4)
- DOWN**
- Accomplished superior (4)
 - Airborne soldier and girl student describing a ghost (10)
 - The language is the King's English (4)
 - Inflammatory note appearing in popular church record (10)
 - Someone delivering a peroration makes us yawn (4)
 - Bird carrying away, say, a bit of bacon (7)
 - Fine feathers on the new brood? Cheers! (4,3,5)
 - Trojan youth, for example, cap-sized when crossing an unknown sea (8)
 - Concentrate when last two characters go up to sign on (6)
 - Fix a drink to entertain a pilot officer (7)
 - Dirty smudge found by member on holy book (6-4)
 - Like some babes no longer in danger (3,2,3,4)
 - Cheer-leader takes fruit to city music-hall (10)
 - Young friend reclined on coarse rug during training (8)
 - Generosity with capital letters? (7)
 - Instrument identified by scholars across the border (7)
 - Party chief's sphere of influence (6)
 - Earthy material in many a ballad (4)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,358



Concise Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERCAST

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Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset	705
West Midlands	706
East Midlands	707
North, South, Central	708
West, Mid & Sth. Glam & Gwent	709
Shropshire, Hereford & Worcester	710
Central Scotland	711
East Scotland	712
London & Home Counties	713
Yorkshire & Cleveland	714
N.W. England	715
W. & S. Wales & Wales	716
N.E. England	717
Central & Lake District	718
S.W. Scotland	719
Edinburgh & Borders	720
S. Central Scotland	721
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M1/M25/M4/M11	733
M1/M25/M4/M11/M25	734
M25/M4/M11/M25	735
M25/M4/M11/M25	736
National traffic and roadworks	737
National motorways	738
West Country	739
Wales	740
Midlands	741
East Anglia	742
North-west England	743
North-east England	744
Scotland	745
Northern Ireland	746

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

England and Wales will have a mixture of sunshine and showers. North Wales and northern England will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain. Heavy at times, which will ease away northwards during the day. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have plenty of dry, bright weather, but the South East will have some rain and northern Scotland will have blustery showers. Outlook: further rain but brighter colder weather will edge slowly south.

AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Sun	Rain	Max	Min
Abertawe	0.5	0.5	11	52
Abertawe	0.5	0.5	11	52
Abertawe	0.5	0.5	11	52
Abertawe	0.5	0.5	11	52
Abertawe	0.5	0.5	11	52
Abertawe	0.5	0.5	11	52
Abertawe	0.5	0.5	11	52
Abertawe	0.5	0.5	11	52
Abertawe	0.5	0.5	11	52
Abertawe	0.5	0.5	11	52

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 17C (63F); min 6pm to 6am, 7C (45F). Humidity: 60%, 64 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.31in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 4.8hr. Sea: mean sea level, 1,000 millibars = 29.93in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Sunday: Highest day temp: Bristol, 18C (64F). Lowest day temp: Loch Glacann, 10C (50F). Highest night temp: Edinburgh, 0.1in. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.1in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 0.1hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 13C (55F); min 6pm to 6am, 7C (45F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.01in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 0.1hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 13C (55F); min 6pm to 6am, 7C (45F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.01in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 0.1hr.

LIGHTING UP TIMES

London 5.44 pm to 6.49 am
Bristol 6.54 pm to 6.59 am
Edinburgh 6.50 pm to 7.08 am
Manchester 6.50 pm to 7.00 am
Penzance 7.07 pm to 7.09 am

YESTERDAY

Area	C	F	Area	C	F
Belfast	12	54	C	14	57
Birmingham	12	54	C	14	57
Blackpool	12	54	C	14	57
Bristol	16	61	C	14	57
Cardiff	16	61	C	14	57
Edinburgh	11	52	C	14	57
Glasgow	12	54	C	14	57

HIGH TIDES

Area	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	11:28	6.1	11:35	4.1
Abertawe	11:28	6.1	11:35	4.1
Abertawe	11:28	6.1	11:35	4.1
Abertawe	11:28	6.1	11:35	4.1
Abertawe	11:28	6.1	11:35	4.1
Abertawe	11:28	6.1	11:35	4.1
Abertawe	11:28	6.1	11:35	4.1
Abertawe	11:28	6.1	11:35	4.1
Abertawe	11:28	6.1	11:35	4.1
Abertawe	11:28	6.1	11:35	4.1

NOON TODAY

Area	Temp	Humidity	Wind	Pressure
London	12	61	11	1016
Abertawe	12	61	11	1016
Abertawe	12	61	11	1016
Abertawe	12	61	11	1016
Abertawe	12	61	11	1016
Abertawe	12	61	11	1016
Abertawe	12	61	11	1016
Abertawe	12	61	11	1016
Abertawe	12	61	11	1016
Abertawe	12	61	11	1016

Information supplied by Met Office

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Eggar says state ownership is the problem, not answer, for coal



Eggar: stressed safety

BY ROSS TYEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PRIVATISATION "offers the best hope of achieving the largest economically viable coal industry," Tim Eggar, the energy minister, said yesterday. Nationalisation had been "an historical cul-de-sac".

His remarks, coming only two days before the first anniversary of the coal closure announcement that shocked the nation, marked the start of a new campaign to explain the government's strategy for Britain's mines.

Couching his arguments in historic terms, Mr Eggar pointed to the impact of the privatisation process on Britain's ports, on British Steel and on British Airways, which is now promoting itself as "the world's favourite airline".

"Time and again the upshot of privatisation has been that industries, which traditionally lagged badly behind the rest of Europe have caught up and are now even setting the pace," Mr Eggar told a luncheon of the Coal Industry Society in London yesterday.

Despite impressive strides made by British Coal over recent years in both improving its productivity and slimming down its operation, the structure and culture of the corporation placed it at a significant disadvantage in comparison with the profitable private mining sectors in Australia, the United States and elsewhere.

"The truth is that far from state ownership proving the solution for the coal industry in this country, state ownership clearly became part of the problem," the minister said.

"The evidence strongly suggests that privatisation offers the best hope of saving the coal industry — not destroying it." Deep mines in Australia and the United States commonly achieved far higher productivity than British Coal, even though they were often using British-made equipment.

"It seems doubtful that geological factors alone can explain such big differences in productivity," he said. Overseas mines had been quick to exploit British long-wall mining technology, but British Coal had been slow to adopt foreign innovations such as roof-bolting.

Privatisation, Mr Eggar said, would "empower managers to manage on a proper commercial basis". It would also stimulate commercial enterprise and release management talent. And it would "free the industry from the kind of political and financial interference which has inevitably had such a distorting effect in the past," Mr Eggar added. Privatisation would not compromise

safety, he told the society. Aware of the widespread worries in the industry about the safety regime after privatisation, Mr Eggar went out of his way to offer reassurance on this matter.

"Modern mining practice, new technology and a tough regulatory framework will all ensure that the industry's excellent existing safety record will be maintained," he said. "Safety must and will remain paramount."

There was tacit acknowledgement, however, that further contraction of the coal industry appears inevitable. Privatisation should not be regarded as a panacea, Mr Eggar said. Market conditions would remain "extremely challenging under any form of ownership".

It was an uncompromising speech to make to the Coal Industry Society, an organisation which, though it predated

nationalisation, has many members who still harbour deep reservations about the sale plan.

The gulf between many in the industry and the government was eloquently summed up by Nick Ross, the president of the Coal Industry Society, who told Mr Eggar: "We feel the heat but we don't see the light." Coming from an organisation that also represents the private mining groups, which are hoping to gain from the privatisation programme, that cannot be taken lightly.

Mr Eggar and his boss, Michael Heseltine, the president of the Board of Trade, may worry more about the wider public. But the United Kingdom's network of coal traders, suppliers and distributors will be central to any effort to re-invigorate the coal industry.

They are clearly a sceptical audience.

Hong Kong enquiry into Standard Chartered

Standard Chartered's activities in Asia are under investigation again as Hong Kong clamps down on breaches of securities regulations associated with public offerings

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) is investigating share trading in companies whose floatations on the Hong Kong stock market involved Standard Chartered, the international banking group.

The investigations concern Standard Chartered Asia, its Asian merchant-banking subsidiary and its sister company, Standard Chartered Securities.

Standard Chartered in London confirmed the Hong Kong subsidiary was being investigated but added that the SFC was also investigating the other main players.

A spokesman said the commission wanted "to see whether there was any infringement of regulations that has taken place in regard to certain listings sponsored by the company in the last few months."

David Suleman, chief executive of Standard Chartered Asia, said yesterday he was unaware of any breaches of securities regulations by his company and by Standard Chartered Securities. He refused to name the companies involved or to say what the SFC was investigating.

The investigation in Hong Kong comes after the bank made £22 million provisions against its involvement in the Bombay securities market. The banking group also faces a £98 million claim against it in the High Court in Singapore by a Malaysian businessman.

The dispute between Standard Chartered and Danuk Yap Yong Seong, who controls Morsia Investments, concerns the sale of assets, including a hotel, that Morsia had pledged to Standard Chartered as collateral for loans. Standard Chartered is defending

ing the action. The SFC has been criticised for its failure to tackle breaches of regulations and is believed to be trying to make a public demonstration that it is policing its best.

It is thought to be concentrating on the top half of a dozen banks and securities firms involved in stock-market floatations.

Mr Suleman said: "Standard Chartered has been aware that the SFC has been conducting a review of market trading in the shares of certain companies, which have been subject to initial public offerings in Hong Kong."

The public offerings under investigation are believed to include a number sponsored by Standard Chartered Asia, some of which involved Standard Chartered Securities as principal sub-underwriter. The public offerings were made last year.

The Standard Chartered spokesman said that the company is co-operating with the SFC. He added that no member of staff had been disciplined or had lost a job as a result of the enquiry.

Last month, the SFC disciplined Peregrine Brokerage and criticised Peregrine Capital. At the time, the SFC said it was investigating trading in companies floated by other merchant banks to see whether they complied with stock-exchange rules demanding that at least 25 per cent of a company's issued share capital be in public hands.

The SFC publicly censured Peregrine Brokerage and Jimmy Pang, the director responsible for private-client trading, lost his registration as a dealing director for two-and-a-half years for "engaging in trading activity prejudicial to the interests of the investing public".



The tanker Exxon Valdez is towed away after spilling 11 million gallons of oil on the Alaskan coastline in 1989

Price war forces USAir to consider more staff cuts

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

FURTHER cutbacks are expected at USAir Group following an internal report which is due to be presented to the board next month.

The airline, America's fifth largest, in which British Airways owns almost 25 per cent of the shares, had just announced 2500 job cuts and warned it will end the third quarter and the year in the red. The carrier faces a price war on three fronts: international, domestic and its East Coast shuttle linking Washington, New York and Boston.

A spokeswoman for USAir said yesterday: "We have been studying and reviewing our operations to determine how we are going to be competitive in the future in the face of the discount carriers."

The review, which is being headed by internal executives, but conducted by an outside consultancy, is due to report in the next few weeks but its recommendations may not be implemented until next year.

With other carriers, USAir has faced increased air fare competition this year, but the heat in the battle was turned up significantly last month when Southwest Airlines, the no-frills carrier, launched services out of one of USAir's five main hubs at discounts of up to 80 per cent.

The airline's latest crisis comes as talks start in Washington tomorrow to renegotiate the UK-US bilateral aviation agreement known as Bermuda II.

One of the most significant hurdles to agreement is whether Britain is prepared to give more access to American carriers in exchange for British Airways being allowed to invest a further \$450 million in USAir, lifting its stake to 49 per cent, and eventually to take control.

Exxon sues Lloyd's for Valdez costs

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

LLOYD'S of London is at the centre of a \$1 billion claim for costs and compensation stemming from the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Exxon, America's largest oil company with net profits last year of \$4.8 billion, has filed claims in Houston, Texas, suing the insurers, led by Lloyd's, for \$850 million. Industry experts say the figure could climb to \$1 billion with interest and costs. The insurers have filed a counter action in New York.

Exxon says it bought three policies as a cargo owner, to cover oil spills and other catastrophes, from a pool of insurers from more than 30 countries, led by Lloyd's. The insurers say the agreements specifically excluded pollution protection for tankers such as the Exxon Valdez.

The case could create a number of maritime law precedents and is expected to clarify the exposure of insurers to this type of disaster and thus influence the cost of marine insurance.

The Valdez spilled 11 million gallons of crude oil polluting large parts of the Alaskan coast in March 1989.

Tenants urged to buy with rents

BY SARA MCCONNELL, PERSONAL FINANCE CORRESPONDENT

THE government will tomorrow unveil its campaign to urge tenants to convert their rents into mortgages. Legislation to allow them to do this, enshrined in the Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Development Act, will be implemented on November 1.

More than 1.25 million tenants could qualify for the scheme, the environment department believes. They are local authorities and non-charitable housing associations, paying full rent and not on housing benefit. Under the scheme, tenants buy part of their home at a discounted price, with a mortgage, which then costs roughly the same to service each week as paying their rent. If the value of the property has

risen when a tenant comes to sell, part or all of the discount has to be paid back.

An environment department spokesman said: "This is not a campaign to get people to convert at all costs. We stress that they still have to pay maintenance, solicitors and so on. We don't know whether the complexity of the scheme will mitigate against us."

Mr Morgan said the rail link consortium, in which BAA has 70 per cent and BR 30 per cent, has been discussing possible "commercial" loans, with maturities of much longer than ten years, with the Japanese institution for some weeks, as it had with banks in Britain, Europe and America.

As the consortium has made clear from the outset, it intends to finance £200 million of the project with debt, the rest with equity from the consortium partners.

Mr Morgan said the banks' responses to the loan discussions had been enthusiastic, but no decision had been made. Work on the project, which has already begun, could continue for some time without borrowings. The process of "testing the waters" with the banks was continuing, and the consortium was "under no pressure to make an early decision", he added.

BAA denies Japanese soft loan deal

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

A BANK backed by the Japanese government that funds infrastructure projects around the world may finance the Heathrow Express rail link between central London and the airport, according to British Airports Authority (BAA).

But BAA was keen to dismiss reports that British Rail, its partner on the rail link joint venture, had been forced to turn to Japan to be "bailed out" after being spurned by British and European banks.

Terry Morgan of BAA's corporate affairs office, spoke of "mystical loans" and insisted reports that the consortium had signed an agreement for soft finance were "absolutely wrong". The reports, which

originated in *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*, the Japanese financial newspaper, said Japan had decided to start a programme of helping finance public works in industrialised countries as a way of offsetting its huge current account surplus.

The £300 million Heathrow Express link, to run 17 miles from Paddington to the airport, has been selected as the first of the projects for funding said the Japanese reports, adding that the quasi-governmental Export-Import Bank of Japan would offer £150 million of ten-year soft loans for the scheme. Due to a Japanese holiday yesterday, it was impossible to get the bank's view.

Westland Group wins Lockheed contract

WESTLAND Group has won a major contract for the redesign, manufacture and product support of the engine nacelles for the Lockheed C-130 Hercules transport aircraft. The contract is for up to 180 aircraft sets and associated support, with an estimated value of £250 million. Deliveries are expected to start in 1995. The C-130J is the latest variant of Lockheed's best-selling Hercules. Sales of about 700 of the latest model are expected, Westland said.

The contract includes design of the lower cowl and all nacelles — streamlined engine coverings — for the C-130J and the supply of complete nacelles for other variants of the plane. The C-130J is powered by the new Allison GMA2100 engine and marks the second Allison contract won by Westland. The firm's nacelles are already used on Dornier, British Aerospace, de Havilland and Saab aircraft. Development of the C-130J project is being funded jointly by Lockheed and its team of risk-sharing UK contractors. (Temps, page 29).

Italian privatisation fear

CARLO Azeglio Ciampi, the Italian prime minister, was last night trying to limit the damage of the resignation of Paolo Savona, his industry minister, over privatisation. The resignation unnerved the stock market. Signor Ciampi has won praise for his handling of the recession, but his implicit rejection of Signor Savona's plan to retain a hard core of selected investors in privatised companies was seen as a move that could derail the asset sales crucial to economic reform.

Ashley loses directors

TWO directors of Ashley Group, the window blinds to plywood manufacturer, have resigned after the decision to move the head office from London to Glasgow. Alan Thomas, managing director, and Chris Tipper, finance director, will leave at the end of this month, along with Jane Stables, company secretary. Jim White, chairman, said the move to Glasgow would save the group "a substantial sum" even though it has yet to find a tenant for its London head office.

EC jobless queue static

UNEMPLOYMENT in the European Community stood at 10.4 per cent for the third month in a row in August, but remained one percentage point higher than a year ago. The July figure, initially put at 10.6 per cent, was revised due to new data for Britain. There had been bigger than average rises in unemployment since August last year in Spain (to 21.2 per cent up from 18.1 per cent), Belgium (9.5 per cent against 8.3 per cent) and Germany (5.7 per cent, up from 4.6 per cent).

Frank Gates advances

A RECOVERY in car sales helped Frank G Gates, the east London-based Ford motor dealer, to lift first-half post-tax profit to £771,000 (from £145,000 last time), but discounts on some models damaged margins. Turnover rose to £347 million (£258 million) in the half year to end-June. More than doubled profit from new cars helped operating profit to £1.15 million, from £216,000 in a depressed period. Again, no interim dividend is paid; earnings were 3.6p a share (0.68p).

Eli Lilly to axe 4,000

ELI Lilly, the American pharmaceuticals company, plans to reduce its workforce by 2,000, or about 10 per cent, by mid-1994 through voluntary early retirement and attrition. A further 2,000 will go through reduced use of temporary and contract workers. The job cuts are to cushion downward price pressures and rising costs. Lilly expects third-quarter earnings of between 98 cents and \$1 per share, against a loss of 91 cents a year earlier.

THE AGRICULTURAL MORTGAGE CORPORATION PLC REDEMPTION OF THE AGRICULTURAL MORTGAGE CORPORATION PLC 6 1/4 PER CENT DEBENTURE STOCK 1992 TO 1994

In accordance with the conditions of the issue of The Agricultural Mortgage Corporation PLC 6 1/4 per cent Debenture Stock 1992-94 set out in the Bank of England's prospectus dated 13th July 1994, The Agricultural Mortgage Corporation PLC hereby gives notice that it will redeem at par all of The Agricultural Mortgage Corporation PLC 6 1/4 per cent Debenture Stock 1992-94 as at 15th January 1994, for cash. From that date no further interest will accrue.

The Register of the Stock is kept by the Bank of England.

The final interest payment will be made as at 15th January 1994 to the persons registered as holders on 17th December 1993.

Redemption monies will be payable as at 15th January 1994 to the persons registered as holders on 17th December 1993. The Bank of England gives notice that the Register will be closed with effect from close of business on 17th December 1993.

Redemption request forms will be issued to stockholders in due course by the Registrar.

Richard D F Bagley
Secretary
11th October 1993.

THE TIMES

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Chairman of Aitken Hume to resign in November

By Sarah Bagnall

AITKEN Hume International, the City merchant bank embroiled in the Hong Kong investigation into the affairs of Lee Ming Tee, the Malaysian businessman who has a 30 per cent stake, is to lose its chairman.

Ziad Idliby yesterday announced he intends to resign as executive chairman at the company's next board meeting on November 15. In a statement, the company said Dr Idliby, who was appointed at the request of two shareholders, had completed the task of resolving the company's relationship with the Bachmann Group and selling NSR, its main US subsidiary.

Last month, he informed the board that he felt he had fulfilled his role and as a result wanted to resign. The company requested he stay for a short time and it is now expected he will stand down at the next board meeting.

Following a restructuring, Aitken Hume is largely a cash shell augmented by the merchant banking operations, which are up for sale. Only about 10p of the company's current share price of 50p is estimated to reflect the banking business with the balance reflecting cash balances.

The future of the banking operation is still unclear following shareholders' rejection of a proposal by Mr Lee to move the bank's domicile to Hong Kong. Last month, shortly after the proposal was withdrawn, more than 100 businesses associated with Mr Lee were raided by Hong Kong police. Mr Lee bought into Aitken Hume, which is also 30 per cent owned by Wafiq Saeed, the Saudi businessman, six years ago.

The raid followed the publication of a 688-page report on Mr Lee's Allied Group, a Hong Kong financial conglomerate with interests in shipping and property. The report, undertaken by Nicholas Allen, of Coopers & Lybrand, was part of an investigation triggered by stock market regulators' concerns over prices at which assets were being bought and sold between the group's companies.



Sir Anthony Gill, chairman and chief executive, says the company has taken a step up in the past year, though there is still 'some way to go'

Lucas maintains dividend as sales rise improves prospects

By Colin Campbell

LUCAS Industries, supplier to the aerospace, automotive and applied technology markets, is maintaining its 1993 total dividend at 7p a share after a sharp upturn in profits, even though the dividend is again uncovered.

Sir Anthony Gill, chairman and chief executive, said the year to July 31 had been one of "important progress" during which, in difficult markets, there had been a real increase in sales of 2 per cent, to £256 million.

Operating profits rose from £59.3 million to £87 million, and the pre-tax profit was £50.3 million compared with £22.5 million previously. The shares rose 12p to 167p.

Sir Anthony said Lucas was strong and getting stronger, but admitted that "we still have

■ Lucas plans further disposals after realising an overall £75 million from the sale of non-core activities as the parts supplier group continues its restructuring programme

some way to go". The maintained dividend, declared out of diluted net earnings of 4.3p a share (up from net earnings of 0.8p a share in 1992) was justified in view of the board's confidence. The company said it would have been silly to have cut the dividend now. It proposes an enhanced scrip dividend alternative to the final payment of 4.9p a share, which would be 50 per cent higher at 7.35p.

Lucas said it had made "good progress with the selection of a new chief executive", and hopes to make a formal announcement of any appointment at or before the November 18 annual meeting. Sir Anthony declined to be drawn further, but admitted that he had led the executive team a year longer than planned.

The group achieved £60 million of cost reductions, and programmes to remodel Lucas were on, or ahead of, schedule. In the year to the end of July, £56 million was realised from non-core asset sales. To date, Lucas has realised £75 million from non-core sales. Further disposals are planned.

Further improvements in profitability and cash generation are planned, and the

group is well placed to benefit when economic conditions improve, Sir Anthony said.

The company is in talks in China concerning an aerospace and manufacturing facility, and headway has been made in the Czech Republic.

Aerospace represented 25 per cent of group sales, automotive 63 per cent and applied technology 12 per cent. By geographic area, 37 per cent of sales were generated by UK operations, 33 per cent by continental Europe, 24 per cent in North America and 6 per cent in other overseas operations. The group's staff head-count fell by almost 10 per cent from 50,569 to 45,709.

A further fall in the head-count, possibly of between 2 per cent and 3 per cent, is likely.

John Grant, Lucas's financial director, said he was

relaxed with gearing at this stage of the business cycle of 45.2 per cent, up from 44.2 per cent in 1992, and the highest level for some years.

Sir Anthony said Lucas hopes to have this year's dividend covered by net earnings. The board described 1993 results as the first of a three-year plan in which aims included the restoring of adequate profitability and the achievement of a 10 per cent return on sales. Costs would continue to come down.

Sir Anthony said the group had not been immune to the decline in the European automotive market, or to cuts in civil and military aircraft production. But helped by new contracts and a strong share of markets, overall sales had increased.

Tempus, page 29

Finance director leaves Storehouse after 10 months

By Susan Gilchrist

STOREHOUSE took the City by surprise yesterday by announcing the sudden resignation of Graham Rider, its finance director.

Mr Rider, who has only been in the job since December, is believed to be the first director to leave under the new regime of Keith Edelman, the group's recently appointed chief executive.

Mr Edelman, who was brought in from Ladbroke in June to replace David Dworkin, wants to build his own senior management team around him and further appointments are expected in the coming weeks.

Storehouse was at pains to stress that no financial improprieties lay behind Mr Rider's departure and that trading at BHS and Mothercare was still comfortably ahead of last year as the group indicated last month.

A company spokesman said: "Our strategy and finances continue as normal."

The share price fell 8½p on the news, but later recovered to 207p, down 4p. Analysts believe that Mr Edelman, who has a strong corporate finance background, may have wanted a "bigger hitter" in the finance role of his new team.

Mr Rider, who was previously financial controller of Woolworth, joined Storehouse in January of last year as finance director of BHS. He was made group finance director by Mr Dworkin when David Simons suddenly left to go to Lloyds, the owner of the Gateway supermarket chain, and was widely seen as Mr Dworkin's protégé.

He became acting managing director of BHS following Mr Dworkin's departure, although a Storehouse spokesman said yesterday that this did not mean he was being groomed for the top job.

One retail analyst said: "He fell into the job of finance director rather by accident." Some analysts felt that there may also have been a personality clash between the two men that made a working relationship difficult.

Mr Edelman is seen as more extrovert and less reserved than Mr Rider. The fact that Graham Rider has left before a new finance director has been found sug-

gests there were some personal differences," said one analyst.

Mr Rider, who is believed to earn a basic salary of about £150,000 a year, is expected to receive compensation for loss of office. Although he is on a two-year rolling contract, the settlement is likely to be for less than one year's salary. Storehouse came under fire in June for paying £3.3 million to Mr Dworkin in his final year. Although Storehouse has made a strong recovery in recent years, it faces increasing competition from Marks & Spencer and Sainsbury's children's wear chain.

Hoare quits 'stressful' Suter board

By Patricia Tesham

BRIAN Hoare, finance director of Suter, the industrial materials group, has resigned from the board. Suter said that Mr Hoare was leaving to pursue other interests, but would remain a consultant on property and pension matters.

The resignation appears to be linked to Suter's expansion ambitions after David Abell, its chairman, was cleared of insider dealing by the trade department earlier this year.

Mr Abell said yesterday that Mr Hoare's resignation was "a mutual decision" and that Mr Hoare, who is 58, "rather likes the idea of retiring early and we want some younger blood on the board". Mr Abell said: "Working for Suter is a very stressful job. We all work very hard... We are looking to do things over the next couple of years or so. We needed a little bit of oomph."

Suter has 19.13 per cent of James Wilkes, the engineer, and Mr Abell confirmed his interest in winning control.

Mr Hoare's contract had two years to run. His salary was £70,000 to £100,000 a year. Mr Abell said that "an amicable arrangement" had been reached. Alan Hewitt, deputy managing director of Suter Industrial Group, will take over Mr Hoare's post.

Tay Homes knocked back by drop in house prices

By Martin Flanagan

INCREASED sales failed to prevent a drop in profits at Tay Homes, the Leeds house-builder, in the 12 months to end-June. The number of homes sold increased from 1,030 to 1,107, but the average price went down from £64,900 to £61,000, hitting margins. Pre-tax profits fell to £3.1 million (£4.8 million).

There were signs, however, that the industry was recovering, said Trevor Spencer, Tay's chairman. He said Tay had taken advantage of its

worst autumn sales period to acquire land more cheaply. Mr Spencer said the land bank's 4,200 plots put the group in a good position to benefit from a continuing improvement in the market. In addition, year-end gearing was reduced from 48 per cent to 36 per cent.

Despite earnings per share falling to 9.5p (13.6p) the total dividend is held at 5.85p via a 4.65p final. Regionally, Tay says there was a marked improvement in the West Coun-

try, with the Midlands also increasing its contribution. Mr Spencer said this perhaps indicated "an outward movement from the South-East in recovery from the recession."

The North-West company improved slightly, although sales in Yorkshire declined. The Scottish business failed to show the improvement expected, he said, partly due to delays in opening some low-cost housing sites.

The shares closed unchanged at 173p.

Ladbroke explains loan deal

By Our City Staff

LADBROKE, the hotels to betting group, yesterday rushed to limit the damage from allegations made in a weekend report about its banking arrangements, claiming the article was "misleading and misconceived".

The Mail on Sunday said a loan from ABN-Amro, the Dutch bank, was secured on about £100 million of assets and that, last July, Ladbroke was obliged to give a charge to the bank over all the deposits made with it by Ladbroke Group Finance, a subsidiary. Ladbroke has always claimed that virtually none of its £1.3 billion of debt was secured against particular assets.

Ladbroke insisted that the charge in favour of ABN-Amro was "a short term banking arrangement on a back to back basis" undertaken as part of the group's international tax planning arrangements. It also stressed that its arrangements with the bank were all in guilders and it was not trying to boost profits "artificially" by having deposits and loans in different currencies. It added that apart from this one arrangement, its position on unsecured debt was unchanged.

Ladbroke shares rose 4p to close at 182p.



Trevor Spencer, left, with Norman Stubbs, finance director, are building up Tay's land bank

Frankfurt fancied to win EC bank

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

BRITISH negotiators are on the verge of abandoning the City of London's campaign to be the home of the European central bank and are ready to settle for a lesser Euro-institution instead.

As the EC leaders brace themselves for a judgment from the German constitutional court today which will determine the fate of the Maastricht treaty, Community officials are also haggling over which city wins the most prestigious new institution. A special EC summit set for October 29 will now almost certainly allow the embryo central bank, the "European Monetary Institute", to go to Germany, probably Frankfurt.

British ministers and officials have relaxed their advocacy of London as a site for the bank over the past few days. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, said here over the weekend: "This is not going to be

an institution to set the world on fire." One British official said yesterday that London would get a "major institution". Britain's consolation prize is likely to be either a new European trademark office or the headquarters of "Europol", a police liaison group designed to become the EC's equivalent of the FBI.

The rest of Europe has never taken London's claim to house the European central bank seriously, since Britain has to stay out of a single currency. "You can't expect to start criticising the whole European concept and then expect to get nice things shoved your way," one EC diplomat said.

The bank is expected eventually to employ 500 professional staff, although only about 200 will work in the preceding institute, due to come into existence next

January. The trademark office and Europol are expected to have between 200 and 300 staff each, but the trademark office is expected to create further jobs in nearby law firms. London is already a leading centre for patent and trademark law. The Dutch government, which has championed Amsterdam for the central bank, is keen to get either the trademark office or Europol.

To soften the blow to the City of London, which may eventually lose foreign exchange business to Frankfurt, British officials are talking down the importance of the location of the monetary institute and "phase two" of monetary union, scheduled to start next January. "There has to be a brake plate on a door and there has to be a brake plate on the door to open it when somebody spots the plate. That's all," one said.

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THE TIMES
BT
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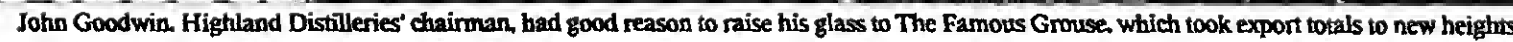
thought to be George Simpson, deputy chief executive of British Aerospace.

Quadradratic, the specialist engineer, climbed 9p, to 165p, as brokers gave it thumbs-up to its latest acquisition.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: Gilts had a lacklustre session close, shadowing the German bund market. The Bank of England sold some of the new Treasury 3½% dated 2011, slipped £5/32 to £114½/32, with 33,000 contracts completed. Treasury 9 per cent 2012 eased ½ to £117½/32. Treasury 9½ per cent 1999 lost £1/16 to £113½/32.

MICHAEL CLARKE

Arjo, the Swedish health care group seeking listings in London and Stockholm, has published a pathfinder prospectus to raise Skr1.5 billion (£122.45 million) to Skr)7 billion in a global offering.



BY SARAH BAGNALL

that over the course of the next year." As a result of this, the company's distilleries have been operating at 40 per cent of capacity since the start of the year. Mr Goodwin said: "Most companies' distilleries are running at between a third and a half of capacity." But in spite of the resulting price pressure Highland has not lowered the price of its Famous Grouse. Mr Goodwin said there was a possibility that pricing could become competitive in the run-up to Christmas.

FRISBON and BRITNER, MARRIAN
 FRISBON and BRITNER, MARRIAN
 WIDOW late of Bristol, London
 SW2 died there on 13 January
 1992
 (Cite about 93,300)

HEARN, HENRY JOSEPH
 HEARN late of Fushun, London
 SE14 died there on 11 November
 1991
 (Cite about 68,900)

HIBBS, ANNE VIOLET HIBBS
 otherwise VIOLET ANNE HIBBS
 SPINSTER late of Chelsea,
 London SW3 died there on 3 June
 1992
 (Cite about 632,000)

MACDONELL, MARY ALICE
 MACDONELL, MARY ALICE
 BRISTOLHOUSE died there on 29
 April 1992
 (Cite about 140,000)

FISHER nee BRITTER, MARIAN
EXMA FISHER nee BRITTER
WIDOW late of Arbroath, London
SW5 died there on 13 January
1992
Estate about £7,300

HEARN, HENRY JOSEPH
HEARN son of Father, London
W14 died there on 8 November
1991
Estate about £8,900

HEBBS, ANNIE VIOLET HEBBS
otherwise VIOLET ANN HEBBS
SPINSTER late of Chelsea
London SW3 died there on 3 June
1992
Estate about £32,000

McCONNELL, MARY ALICE
McCONNELL SPINSTER late of
Bromley died there on 29
April 1993
Estate about £40,000

AN UPTURN in demand for computer consultants in Britain helped Computer People Group return to the black at the interim stage. The London computer consultancy and recruitment agency was confident on prospects for further recovery as it reported pre-tax profits of £364,000 (£135,000

Flotation could take place as early as the latter part of next month, before the Budget, and

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:		Land Sec	714p (+11)
Lloyds	570p (+10p)	Tophook	138p (+15)
Matthew Clark	533p (+10p)	Antiofagasta	875p (+15)
Laporte	688p (+8p)	SKF 'B'	962p (+25)
Airtrous	425p (+8p)	FALLS:	
Scott TV	423p (+10p)	Takeda Chem	817p (-17)
ERF	328p (+10p)	Wolesey	682p (-10)
Lucas	167p (+12p)	Ouro Disney	480p (-35)
Sappi	342p (+12p)	Black	453p (-11)
P&O S's &	186p (+8p)	Haima	198p (-8)
MEPC	519p (+5p)	Rain Org	805p (-8)
Bxton	240p (+8p)		
Br Land	423p (+10p)		

Closing Prices Page 30

Anglian Water Writs	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 4	Wiggins Group	3 $\frac{1}{2}$...
Bea Vief Nam Units	141 $\frac{1}{2}$...	RIGHTS ISSUES		
Crested Fox (S)	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	+3	Advent n/p (140)	31	- 1
For & Col Special Inc	70	...	Applegate n/p (120)	10	- 1
For & Col Sp't Capital	42	...	Britannia n/p (35)	9	...
For & Col Sp't Units	112	...	Britania 54% n/p (150)	9	...
Hammel (130)	39	...	FJB Group n/p (150)	23	...
Ivory & Sime Ent Cap	78	...	MB-Canadian n/p (260)	77	...
Ivory & Sime Ent Cap	74	...	Perry Group n/p (160)	13	...
Regent A	5	...	Phoenix Timber n/p (8)	2	- 1
Select Inds	10	- 5	Tarmac n/p (120)	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Shield Flg (112)	108	- 2	Wates City of Lon n/p (72)	10	+3
VHE Holdings (115)	114	- 1	Wiggins Group n/p (2 $\frac{1}{2}$)	4	...

1992
POTTER, WILLIAM POTTER
late of Edging, London W5 died
there on 19 April 1991
(Male about 81,000)
SAPPHO, DAY
SAPPHO late of Weymouth,
Wiltshire died there on 15
1991
(Male about 87,000)
SALLWOOD, RENE WRIGHT,
EDNA, nee Fawcett, WOOD
late of Wotton, Wiltshire
died there on 14 June 1992
(Male about 82,700)
SPAWTON, nee BULEY, EDNA
PHYLLIS SPAWTON nee BAL-
FOUR, late of Northampton-
shire died there on 3 January 1993
(Female about 81,000)
THORNDON, JOSEPH THOMP-
SON, late of Weymouth, Dorset
died there on 10 June 1992
(Male about 81,000)
THOMPSON, WINIFRED
THOMPSON, SPONGER late of
Weymouth, Wiltshire died
there on 8 of April 1992
(Female about 85,000)
The list of the women named are
reversed, as in the 1990
only Sinead Gifford, Queen Anne's
Green, Weymouth, Dorset
SW1H 9JZ, talking with the
Treasury Solicitor may take steps
to distribute the estate.

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Revenues from the UK consulting business, which accounts for some 65 per cent of turnover, continued to recover despite a competitive market with margins under pressure. Operating profit jumped to £606,000 (£5,000), as revenues rose 12 per cent to £3.55 million, with significantly more consultants on assignment.

However, revenues from the firm's American operations fell 11 per cent, despite the combination of the underlying recession in the United States and a decline in work from IBM as the American computer giant gradually phased out the use of external consultants.

The company said its main businesses in the UK and America have all increased their business levels since the end of the half year, with favourable trends seen for continued profits recovery.

Earnings amounted to 1.45p a share, against a deficit of 0.73p a share last time. There is no interim dividend (0.65p). Although a final payout will be considered when the full year results are known.

Azlan earns £40 million. The Azlan family employs 180 people mainly at premises in Wokingham, Berkshire, and York, and supplies technical support and training to its customers. The company was founded in 1984 and bought by Logiflex five years later. David Randall, managing director, led a £6.5 million management buyout in 1991.

Part of the proceeds will probably be used to repay debt, while new money is likely to be used to fund growth and further expansion into Continental Europe.

The flotation is likely to see the combined 45 per cent stake held by key management members diluted to nearer 25 per cent. SG Warburg are sponsors to the issue.

Rapid growth in the network computing market has seen Azlan's sales grow by a compound 47 per cent a year over the last five years, reaching £41 million in the year to end-March 1993, with pre-tax profits of £3 million.

Mr Randall said: "The flotation will increase the market awareness and credibility of the Azlan Group."

Anglian Water Writs	105½	- ¼
Beta Viet Nam Units	£31½	...
Crockfords (80)	96	+3
For & Col Special Inc.	70	...
For & Col Spl Capital	42	...
For & Col Spl Units	112	...
Hamlet (1130)	139	...
Ivory & Sime Ent Cap	78	...
Ivory & Sime Ent Cap Wts	14	...
Regent A	5	...
Select Inds	10	- ½
Shield Diag (112)	108	- 2
VHE Holdings (1115)	114	- 1

Wiggins Group		34 ...
RIGHTS ISSUES		
Advent n/p (140)		31 -1
Appleyard n/p (120)		10 ...
Briannia n/p (35)		4 ...
Friendly Hills n/p (150)		9 ...
J18 Group n/p (150)		23 ...
MB-Caradon n/p (260)		77 ...
Perry Group n/p (160)		13 ...
Phoenix Timber n/p (8)		2 -1
Tarmac n/p (120)		214 -1
Wates City of Lon n/p (72)		10 +3
Wiggins Group n/p (25)		4 ...

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THE BATTLE

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ONE ON REUTERS

IDE LOY

State of Affairs

to follow the next action

captured by a peaceful lunch

every next door,

هكذا زعمت الاجل

BT devises the formula for redundancy without tears

As the wave of job losses continues, Philip Bassett examines how one big company has softened the blow for thousands of redundant employees

New redundancies at Devonport dockyard and at telephone operator centres are only the latest examples of the wave of job-shedding for which business leaders are forecasting no respite. Official unemployment figures this week will show whether such redundancies are continuing to push up the jobless totals. But what happens after a company announces large-scale job cuts? What happens behind the headlines, when employers have to manage the redundancies — and employees have to face the hard world of finding another job — or of unemployment?

BT, the telecommunications company, is a case in point. In three years, the company has lost up to 80,000 jobs, driven by technological change in a fiercely competitive market. Down now to about 160,000 employees, BT managers nevertheless admit that there is more — a good deal more — to go, and do not privately demur when analysts suggest an eventual manpower target of about 100,000.

Some companies can manage such huge change by little more than a crude slash and burn policy: closing down entire businesses, shutting down complete manufacturing centres. For a geographically diverse company such as BT, which has to service individual consumers and companies across the country, that is not possible; a more careful and sophisticated approach is necessary.

"We were told we would never get rid of 20,000 jobs in a year," John Steele, BT's personnel director, says of the company's accelerated round of job cutting last year. "We were told it's impossible, it's never been done before." In fact, as many as 45,000 applied to go — with 85 per cent of the formal complaints, registered after the redundancy programme, coming from those who were not selected to leave.

BT is currently going through this year's redundancy programme, called Release 93. Put to employees in April, it is looking for 15,000 voluntary redundancies, and BT managers admit that after securing a similar target last year under Release 92, reaching it this year will be harder — particularly when unemployment and the economy generally are so jumpy.

So far, the company has got fewer than 10,000 volunteers, even after offering a sliding scale bonus, starting with a full lump sum bonus payment of 25 per cent of salary for employees agreeing to go on July 1, dropping to 20 per cent by the end of August, and sliding down progressively to 10 per cent by the end of this month.

This year, the lump sum is an option — something employees have to select from a package including outplacement services, a retraining grant of up to £4,000 and a self-employment programme. Most — surprisingly to BT — are opting for the money. Crucial



Former BT workers have returned under the Manpower banner

to the package, though, is the involvement of Manpower, the world's largest employment services company. What distinguishes BT's package from many other companies' redundancy programmes is the deal with BT, under which departing employees are guaranteed 70 days' work with Manpower for a minimum total payment of a quarter of their final BT salary.

The aim of the package is to ease the transition of employees from BT into other work. "The majority of people coming out of BT have never worked anywhere else other than BT," Maureen Millington, Manpower's managing director, says. "They need to be introduced into another culture, into other ways of working, as well as to other skills."

Some former BT employees are taking to it like the proverbial ducks to water. Engineering staff have become clerical workers, picking up new, marketable skills in word-processing and computer handling. Some are applying their BT skills to cabling for IBM. One senior personnel manager

used his redundancy money to pay off his mortgage, retrained, and is now blissful in a previously unfulfillable ambition to be an HGV driver.

Still others have returned to BT — working back at the company that fired them, though this is not the "selective re-hiring" theory so beloved of some City economists as an explanation for the fall in unemployment earlier this year; such people, though working in BT, are actually employees of Manpower now, rather than being on the payroll of their previous employer.

His immediate return to BT of some former staff has proved controversial — especially as they are working for lower rates of pay. Manpower reckons that some BT staff were previously overpaid both in terms of their skill level and in relation to the market, and will only offer market-rate pay.

The resultant lower pay levels are worrying for those still working for BT, alongside their former colleagues who also received a lump of redundancy

money to put in their back pocket. Tony Young, general secretary of the NCU communications union, BT's largest, says: "They had gone on the Friday — and came back on the Monday." But though there has been some opposition in the union to the Manpower programme, NCU leaders accept that it is better than the alternatives — that Manpower is a unionised company, with declared pay rates and benefits that others would not be able to offer.

But as well as going straight from BT into paid work with Manpower, the employees concerned do not face the shattering blow to their confidence that unemployment often prompts. "People don't lose face," says Lillian Bennett, Manpower's chairman, "and that's important." The Manpower package, of course, has the added advantage for BT of helping speed the flow of redundancies from the company, and also allows it to take on, if necessary, at lower overall cost, contract staff to do the work left behind.

BT has been keen this year not to repeat last year's errors. For instance, 19,000 staff left on one day — July 31 — last year, causing the company's administration almost to collapse under the weight of work of moving them out, and impacting severely on customer services. This year, leaving dates have been spread.

Last year's package was also expensive — £1.15 billion in all, and the offering of the package as options this year, rather than something in which all the elements were available to everyone, is in part an attempt to scale down the cost.

Cost may also be the reason BT's approach may not be appropriate for most companies needing to cut back on their headcounts. BT is a highly profitable company, and most companies looking to reduce numbers simply could not afford financially to take similar steps to BT.

Manpower, too, knows its markets and could not offer much more than the 3,600 BT jobs it guaranteed last year. About 1,400 have come off Manpower's register, moving off into other work or elsewhere, but the rest have gone well beyond their guaranteed 70 days' work and are now fully employed with Manpower, slotting into temporary work with the company's clients as and where needed.

Release 94 will soon be upon BT's staff. John Steele acknowledges there is "more to do", and union officials are concerned that BT will be trying to contract out whole sections of its support businesses, possibly to management buyouts, at lower pay rates: it has already had a dispute with the company over such a contract in Thurso which, ironically, was won by Manpower itself.

But while the unions may not wholly approve of BT's approach, they acknowledge it is a good deal better than most employers have been able to offer in the recession. Ms Bennett says that there are other imaginative solutions to companies' redundancy problems if they take the time and trouble to work them out, but for many companies, cost pressures mean such solutions are difficult to find.

Despite moves such as those made by BT, the redundancy roll call looks set to continue.

TEMPUS

Digging deeper still

FEW companies could put their shareholders on notice for a £500 million cash call at the same time as they revealed substantial cuts in revenue projections for the next three years and expect to get away with it. But Eurotunnel is no ordinary company and the price of Eurotunnel units has risen from a low point of 310p in December to over 490p on the hope that the tunnel will finally open next year.

Rationally, there is little to justify such a rally as market expectations of dividends from the tunnel — which some analysts have pencilled in for 2003 — are further off today than they were at the time of the flotation.

Despite management's scorn of the doubters, there remain uncertainties, not least the precise amount of money that the company needs to ensure that lenders will come up with new cash resources next year. A few months

ago, the expectation was that Eurotunnel needed £1 billion including the proceeds of the exercise of warrants. Yesterday the company confirmed that the cash requirement was £1 billion plus some £220 million from warrants. In addition, Eurotunnel indicated that its bankers believed that a further £400 million might be required, in part because of uncertainties over the recovery of £235 million in working capital advances to TML, the contractor.

Eurotunnel believes it can recover most of the money advanced to TML but any settlement will be a long way off. Meanwhile the project cost to the cash breakeven date in 1998 has grown by £1 billion to £10 billion. There is little reason now for shareholders to pull out but institutions that back next year's underwriting will look for a heavy discount.

Westland

WESTLAND was once supposed to be a basket case but the helicopter company that brought down two ministers is still airborne and gaining altitude despite recession and defence cuts.

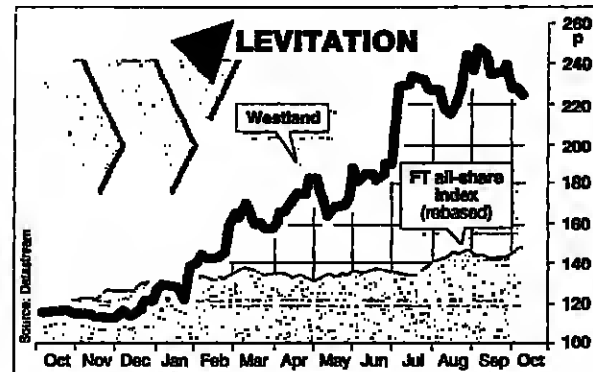
Ahead of the new generation EH 101, few helicopters are emerging from the Yeovil factory (the company only sold 5 last year) and that has forced the company into the discipline of making a living by repairing swords rather than turning them into ploughshares: rigorous cost cutting has enabled it to run a profitable business maintaining and converting the existing fleet of 1,000 helicopters.

The order book is burgeoning, with almost £2 billion of potential business but sales of the EH 101, and yesterday's deal with Lockheed, are unlikely to kick in for another

two to three years yet. Recovery in the shares suggests that the market is now convinced Westland profits will survive until it reaps the benefits from sales of the EH 101 in 1995 and beyond. However, the current rating appears to discount strong earnings growth. Westland should be able to produce profits of about £28 million

for the year just ended, with £30 million the following year, not enough to justify a price earnings multiple for 1994 of 18 times before the real fun starts.

Buying Westland today is to take a view on successful sales in 1995 and beyond. A few shareholders, including GKN with 21 per cent, might want to take profits now.



Inflation

AFTER hanging for so long on the latest statistical titbits, most of the financial markets are in one of those phases when nothing much seems to matter before the Budget.

Only the gilt-edged market looks at all vulnerable to this week's spate of economic news. Its attention is focused on inflation. As nominal long-term yields come down, the question of exactly what real rate of interest is being assumed is becoming ever more urgent.

The producer price indices, although seen as a mere taste to this week's retail price and average earnings trends, may actually provide the best pointer. They are not discouraging. Last year's devaluation is bringing few nasty surprises.

The rise in overall factory gate inflation has stabilised, dipping to an annual 4.2 per cent after two months of zero price rises, albeit these follow the seasonal pattern of the previous two years. Meanwhile, underlying manufacturing inflation, excluding faster-reacting food, tobacco and oil, is catching up.

Twelve-month inflation has risen from 2.2 to 3.0 per cent since April.

There is little reason to think the two will converge at too much above 4 per cent in the absence of some oil or currency shock or leap in consumer spending, all of which look unlikely. Both should then gradually subside as the devaluation effect wears off.

If devaluation has been painless, however, it has not seem to have won much benefit. The latest fall in exports suggests price competitiveness has counted for little in depressed continental markets. If that goes on, the trade gap may prove a greater constraint on short-term interest rates than any inflation projections.

Lucas

LUCAS' promise of jam tomorrow has partly been fulfilled by a delivery of the first droll of positive news in years. Net margins are up in 1993, costs are down, and though there is more to do, at least Lucas looks more steady on the road to recovery.

The group's pension fund,

holding 9.6 per cent of the equity, the equivalent of 4.2 per cent of all its eggs, will be pleased that the year's dividend has been maintained at 7p, while the stock market was chuffed that operating profits in such a tough market managed to advance from £59.3 million to £87 million.

But for the weight of another three pieces of paper, the market would have been further enlightened about the year's progress by seeing a cash flow statement. That will now only follow with the annual report, though any incoming chief executive should take an early peek.

Loan gearing at 45 per cent, the highest in years, does not unduly concern management at this stage of the business cycle, but it remains debatable just how soon that cycle will start accelerating back up. In the absence of a decided uptick in its markets, Lucas will have to rely on further cost efficiencies to keep profits rolling forward — and there is a long way to go before peak 1990 profits of £185.1 million are revisited. Thus far, Lucas at least ensures dividend security. But more jam, please.

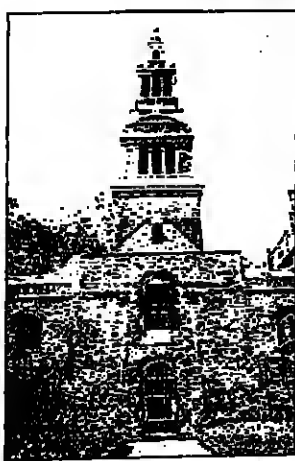
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Conran's food for thought

AS SIR Terence Conran's latest eponymous, The Butlers Wharf Chop House, enters its first week in business, word is surfacing of an interesting twist involving Sunita Russell, his one-time escort. Sunita, 23, who basked in the headlines for a time during the summer, before she left Sir Terence for a banker from Oklahoma, has made much of her exotic background in interviews with the press. Indeed, one of the few tantalising clues to her past is a passing reference to her father, "Frederick, an English restaurateur", who proposed to her Indian-born mother, Pamela, in Quaglin's in the fifties, and died when she was a youngster. Now, it has emerged that her father was none other than Fred Russell who ran the Baron of Beef on Gutter Lane, a down-to-earth City watering hole. Too bad Fred isn't around to help Sir Terence run his ever-expanding empire.

Clintonomics

WHILE America stumbles from the recession pondering the beneficial effects of Clintonomics, the US stock market has done wonders for Bill and Hillary's home economics. Details from the US Office of Government Ethics department show that the family fortune is now valued at about \$1.225 million, and has grown by almost a third since the last analysis of their finances in April, based on last year's tax return. Both nest-eggs are the kind of super conservative variety with which any widow or



Christchurch, left, and St Vedast-alias-Foster, in Holborn



WHAT business link could there be between these two City churches, both rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren after the Great Fire and barely 100 metres apart? Sharp eyes spotted the connection. By complete coincidence, each has lent its name to financial services companies which have recently forged links with MeesPierson NV, a European banking group. Christchurch in Newgate, left, is the inspiration for Christchurch Insurance Brokers, and St Vedast-alias-Foster in Holborn, right, resurfaces as Foster Church Merchant Trading Company, a venture capital group.

orphan would feel secure. Hillary Rodham has the bulk of the fortune in her name shares, bonds, unit trusts and profit sharing from her former law firm, total between \$500,000 and \$1.1 million. Bill has bonds and unit trusts worth \$125,000. The entire First Family's investments were placed in a blind trust on Independence Day this year to avoid potential conflicts.

Coopers quartet

RICHARD Stone, head of corporate finance at Coopers & Lybrand, is one of four front-runners to take over as senior partner from Brandon Gough. A confidential memo circulated to partners reveals that Stone — apparently none the worse for his brush with the Institute of Chartered Accountants over the Polly Peck affair — is well up in the running, along with Adrian Lamb, head of the firm's regional op-

erations, Peter Smith, head of the City practice, and Alan McFetrich, ex-managing partner of Deloitte, Haskins & Sells. The list may be whittled to two before being put to the vote by the end of November.

Lower key

CHRIS Cartwright, former head of UK equities at Paribas, is to join Credit Lyonnais Laing on the institutional sales desk, I hear. Head of risk management at County Nat-West Securities during the eighties, he has opted for a lower profile — aside from forays on-stage with electric guitar and microphone. He starts on November 1.

In the soup

TIM Eggar, the energy minister, has already upset many with his plans to reduce and privatise Britain's coal industry. Yesterday, he further con-

found the august conventions of the industry. Invited to make the traditional after-lunch speech at a gathering of the Coal Industry Society, the industry forum, he made his speech at the beginning of the proceedings before rushing off to catch a plane for an official visit to Algeria. Members of the society, ranging from mining bosses to coal distributors, gazed down into their empty plates at the Park Lane Hotel ballroom in London as Eggar explained why he believes a dose of privatisation will do them all good. He promptly dashed off for "a sandwich in the car," leaving his disgruntled hosts to mull over their pea and ham soup.

ONE of my sources just in from Los Angeles brings word of a new sports gear shop that has opened... called The Merchant of Tennis.

JON ASHWORTH

Unfortunate side-effects of the enhanced scrip dividend mechanism

From Mr Christopher W. Daws

Sir, Tempus (October 4) nearly hits the nail on the head when discussing enhanced scrip dividends. They are no more or less than a passed dividend which enables a company to accumulate shareholders' capital without going to the trouble of having a rights issue.

But even Tempus is diverted by the so-called ACT savings. Whoever devised the name advance corporation tax has much confusion to answer for. It is neither advance nor corporation tax.

It is a withholding from a gross dividend on account of a shareholder's tax liability. It is not advance, because it is paid

over to the Revenue after the dividend from which it is withheld. And it is not corporation tax because its eventual incidence depends only on the shareholder's tax position and has nothing to do with the company.

So, of course, the passing of a dividend "saves" ACT, but only because it is an integral part of the gross dividend. The idea that this is a saving for the company (of a type different from the saving of the dividend) is the fault of the accounting standard which treats ACT as a tax on the company rather than as part of the dividend.

Enhanced scrip dividends would be harmless enough if all shareholders accepted them and realised that their

company had passed its dividend. Regrettably, however, the enhanced scrip mechanism has some unfortunate side-effects.

First, shareholders who are, understandably, bemused by the enhanced scrip dividend and fail to "accept" it will lose financially. This includes at least one major investment trust, which claims that accounting and tax considerations prevent it taking the scrip.

Second, higher-rate taxpayers have a tax liability in cash, despite the fact that no dividend has been paid and their proportionate shareholding is unchanged.

Third, all taxpayers have to track the enhanced scrip when calculating their capital-gains

tax liabilities. Fourth, registrars, shareholders and investment advisers have to amend their records and certificate holdings.

Fifth, the dividend history of the company will show a dividend as having been paid when really it was passed. Hardly a fair representation of the company's record.

And sixth, we all spend time and effort getting to grips with the subject when we should be tackling the real economy. Our overseas competitors must think we are crazy.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER W. DAWS,
Sheepcombe House,
Sheepcombe,
Stroud,
Gloucestershire.

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Equities lose ground

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began October 4. Dealings end October 15. Settlement day October 16. 90-day forward rates are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
1993	1992					
100	100	High Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100	100	Low Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

49	345	Abey	100	115	2.4	16.3
100	100	High Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100	100	Low Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E

BREWERIES

49	345	Abey	100	115	2.4	16.3
100	100	High Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100	100	Low Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E

BUILDING, ROADS

49	345	Abey	100	115	2.4	16.3
100	100	High Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100	100	Low Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E

ELECTRICITY

49	345	Abey	100	115	2.4	16.3
100	100	High Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100	100	Low Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E

FINANCE, LAND

49	345	Abey	100	115	2.4	16.3
100	100	High Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100	100	Low Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E

ELECTRICITY

49	345	Abey	100	115	2.4	16.3
100	100	High Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100	100	Low Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E

FINANCE, LAND

49	345	Abey	100	115	2.4	16.3
100	100	High Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100	100	Low Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E

DRAPERY, STORES

49	345	Abey	100	115	2.4	16.3
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100	100	High Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100	100	Low Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E

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49	345	Abey	100	115	2.4	16.3
100	100	High Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100	100	Low Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E

PAPER, PRINT, ADVIC

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100	100	High Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
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100	100	High Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100	100	Low Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E

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Building up in recruitment

BY ROGER PEARSON



Ken Fong

When you start up, they say you haven't the experience, and when you're established, they say they want someone new and cheap.

Ian Wolter, David Sayeed and Nick Sohail are developing an agency filling construction industry jobs

finding staff for construction and technical industries, but is expanding this base. Customers include British Rail, Mitsubishi, British Gas, Glaxo and Wimpey, and the agency has had demanding orders such as finding Arabic-speaking helicopter pilots for the Middle East and a computer-literate secretary with six European languages.

The founders aim to open offices in regional centres and to achieve

□ A small business week is being organised in Rochdale by the local training and enterprise council, to begin on Sunday, October 24. There will be free advice on issues such as support services, human resources, training, marketing and export. Awards will be made for the best new business, best export business and best business overall. Details: Karen Taylor 0706 449091.

□ Young people considering a business start-up between January and July this year increased by 91 per cent over the same period last year. A national survey by Livewire, which supports beginners of between 16 and 25 and is funded by Shell UK, shows that 7,245 enquiries were received in the first half of 1993. The average age of enquirers was 23. The most popular ideas included home maintenance, construction, gardening and security, followed by clothing, textiles and soft furnishings.

EDITED BY DEREK HARRIS

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A MARRIAGE OF DISCIPLINES?

A fast-expanding, medium sized firm of Chartered Accountants plans to recruit an experienced matrimonial lawyer to join a new matrimonial division within the practice. This is an exciting and unusual opportunity to become a key member of a firm with a reputation for innovation and flair. It goes without saying that the right candidate will bring a high standard of skill and professionalism to the role. Even more important, however, will be energy, imagination and a vision of how a multi-disciplinary service can thrive and prosper. Naturally, the package reflects the importance of the position. Please reply with full details to Box No 4218

سكينة الاميل

LAW

● EASTERN PREMISES 37
● LAW REPORT 38

Chris Barton on how new child laws are causing conflict between former partners



A single mother hugs her daughter, but what of the father? The Child Support Act is being described as the 'poll tax of family law'.

Broken families at war

In April there were predictions that while the Children Act 1989 might give family law the feel-good factor, the Child Support Act 1991 was likely to have a very different impact. It now transpires that when fathers separate from their children, the two acts are combining not only to do both of them an injustice but, in some cases, the mothers as well.

The pre-1991 White Paper, "Children Come First", was termed "Treasury Comes First" by the early doubters. In fact, the much-vaunted new system is achieving a remarkable triple: failing to cut the welfare bill by as much as planned; exacerbating parental tensions between the former partners; and destabilising the father's new family — children included.

Net savings were supposed to be £500 million by 1997, yet only a very few existing benefit cases have been the subject of applications to the DSS: bad news for the mothers concerned, who are not allowed to make their own applications to the Child Support Agency.

In an effort to earn performance-related bonuses, the agency is preferring to pot the sitting target represented by men in work who agreed a fair divorce settlement pre-1991. This, in turn, is causing damage to these men's new families, the children of which are given a lower priority by the Act. The reasoning is that stepchildren, at least, will have their own absent fathers who will be responsible for them.

More bad news for all

concerned may arise from the — apparently laudable — provision that the absent father's maintenance bill is to be reduced if he has care of his child for more than 104 days per year. Some absent fathers are arguing that the mothers are preventing them from seeing the children for this very reason: some mothers will say that the fathers are

'As incomprehensible as the Egyptian hieroglyphs must have been to an illiterate peasant'

seeking such contact only to avoid payment. All in all, will the Act go the way of the community charge? That is certainly the hope of Families Need Fathers, the pressure group for paternal rights, which says there is a "fundamental amorality" in the Child Support Act, labelling it the "poll tax of family law".

Solicitors are already predicting that, in 18 months' time, defaulting fathers will be clogging up the courts through non-payment of hugely increased payments. One divorced father has had his payments nearly quadrupled, from £123 per month to £473. He is allowed only £30 to support his daughter by his new partner — but nothing for supporting his stepson even though the natural father pays no maintenance.

Legal challenges are pending: some fathers intend to

return to court to try to vary the terms of their divorce settlements in the light of their vastly increased maintenance payments.

But it is not only divorced fathers who are bemoaning the new law. The second wife of one such man pointed out that because she works, and the former wife does not, he is expected to pay more for the

children of the first marriage than he does for their new child. On the other hand, one first wife has criticised her former husband for expecting her to work for a living, while wanting his new wife to stay at home to have more children and look after him and them.

Short of a parliamentary rethink, these men would seem to have only one glimmer of hope. In order to prioritise women who were on income support and had no maintenance order, those with existing maintenance orders were not to be dealt with until 1997. Women falling into the latter category have been returning to court to have the maintenance order revoked, knowing that under the Child Support Agency formula they would obtain much more. At least one appeal against such revocation is now pending.

One divorced father is reported as having to sell his car to meet the new payments, which means he will no longer be able to collect his children for holidays. But the Child Support Act is not the only threat to such children and their fathers continuing to see each other.

In the recent case of *Re D*, the Court of Appeal held that the approach to contact has not been changed by the Children Act 1989. "One starts with the premise that the child's right is to know both his parents", Lord Justice Balcombe said. "But that there may be cases... where there are cogent reasons why the child should be denied that opportunity."

creasing number of bewildered and angry clients who have never sought to avoid their financial responsibilities to the children from whom they have been parted."

Many will wish that the government had paid more attention to Lord Simon of Glaisdale, who, when the bill was in the House of Lords, castigated the maintenance assessment formula, for being as "incomprehensible as the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs must have been to an illiterate peasant".

● The author is reader in law at Staffordshire University

Open the air waves to true freedom

Broadcasting law is in a state of flux. The reallocation of Channel 3 licences in 1991, the development of satellite television, the coming into force of the European Community Directive on broadcasting, and the renewal of the BBC's charter in 1996, all require the reconsideration of legal relationships that have been taken for granted over past decades.

If British broadcasting really is the best in the world (a doubtful claim in the eyes of viewers of *LA Law*, *Cheers* and *The Simpsons*), our broadcasting law is probably the worst. Some of the Channel 3 licence-holders are seriously damaged by the size of the bids they made in the blind auction imposed by the Broadcasting Act 1990. Broadcasters are hindered by duties of impartiality that prohibit the taking of an editorial line on anything more controversial than wishing the Queen a happy birthday. The sexual content of programmes is censored to an extent that would have viewers in Germany or France marching in protest.

The BBC lacks independence from state control in crucial respects. It is denied permanence, having no statutory basis and operating under a charter which is limited in duration and subject to revocation. The power of the home secretary to give directions to the BBC (and to the independent network) was exercised in 1988 to prohibit the broadcasting of the voices of apologists for terrorism, although subtitles or reported speech may be used. This direction is gleefully cited by repressive regimes in other parts of the world when criticised by Britons for interfering with freedom of expression.

The development of cable and satellite television has been hindered by a regulatory regime that assumes that broadcasting should be controlled by the state to a greater extent than other media, such as books, magazines, cinema and video. Technological advances have removed any justification for such a policy by reference to scarcity of air-wave resources. The argument from cultural homogeneity, that it is good to have a society in which everyone can talk on the train about last night's television, is of doubtful force if the highlight of yesterday evening's viewing was *Through the Keyhole* or *You've Been Framed*.

The role of the law, in this context, as in other areas touching on freedom of expression, is to confer choice on people to read or watch what they choose, with as little state interference as possible. No doubt there were 15th-century conservatives who criticised William Caxton on the grounds that many of the books to be published would not be worth

reading and that publishers would grow wealthy by the provision of information.

The content of, and the principles behind, our law are well described by Eric Barendt, Goodman Professor of Media Law at University College London, in *Broadcasting Law: A Comparative Study* (Clarendon Press, Oxford, £30). Professor Barendt explores the similarities and contrasts between the legal regimes in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy and America. He considers, in helpful detail, the central regulatory standards applied here and abroad, including the scope and enforcement of programme standards, the control of advertising, the rights of access to broadcasting by political parties and individuals, and the application of European Community law.

Professor Barendt concludes, with justification, that British broadcasting suffers from its lack of constitutional protection, and that "broadcasting freedom in Britain only exists under weak conventions, which can easily be disregarded by confident (or arrogant) governments". He rightly observes that "the continued ban on political advertising is hard to sustain in principle".

Other parts of Professor Barendt's thesis are unconvincing. He asserts that the deregulation of programme standards, as adopted by the Federal Communications Commission and some judges in the United States, is "unacceptable" because it "leaves the free speech interests of viewers and listeners entirely out of account". He contends that the imposition of positive programme obligations on broadcasters "do not really amount to an interference with freedom of speech".

These arguments fail to persuade because the viewer has no greater right to control what is broadcast than what is published. Viewers already have a powerful "control": the "off" button on their television set. Statutory regulation of the content of magazines or books would be recognised as intolerable, so what justifies such treatment of broadcasting, other than a paternalistic assumption that Auntie knows best?

As Professor Barendt observes, broadcasting is of central importance to modern society, as a means by which people obtain education, information and entertainment. The central issue of free speech in the next decade will be whether government can be persuaded to trust its citizens enough to release control over the airwaves. Professor Barendt's book reminds us of how many fetters there are to be removed.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford



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Laying the law down

MICHAEL Howard's law and order speech last week did not only catch some of the media by surprise; it left many Home Office officials reeling, both in content and in his manner of operation.

"In a word, they are shell-shocked," said one civil servant. "It's usually been a question of officials working up the ideas and putting them to ministers who then decide what they want to take for the conference speech. Here, Mr Howard just went away and decided it all himself — it comes from the top down and we are left to pick up the pieces."

For those on the liberal wing, the speech is hard to

INNS AND OUTS

come to terms with. "It really is the end of the ideas that have pervaded the department and penal groups for the last decade."

Lost fortune?
DOCK workers who claim to have lost millions of pounds in a forced sale of shares they owned in Medway ports, may sue the accountants KPMG Peat Marwick for allegedly undervaluing the shares.

The 269 dockers made redundant earlier this year had to give up their shares when they left the company. KPMG valued the shares at £2.50 each. Three months later Mersey Port took over Medway and the shares are now

worth £37.25 each. The dockers' union, the PGWU, is waiting for counsel's opinion before committing itself to a law suit.

Helping hand
HELP is at hand for solicitor trainees struggling to cope with the cost of qualifying. Trainee Solicitors' Group has struck a deal with the Law Society and NatWest Bank worth up to £100 million over five years. The bank will lend money to those taking the one-year vocational course to enable them to pay the fees — now £5,000 a year.

The deal allows any student with a training job waiting for them after the course to bor-

row up to £10,000 to cover fees and living expenses and repay at favourable rates which do not start for 15 months.

Robert Festerstein, a trainee solicitor whose idea the deal was, says: "As a means of securing equal access to the profession, it certainly goes a long way to help."

Squat saved
A LAST-minute adjournment of a possession hearing last week saved Europe's largest squat from being dismantled. Rutland Park Mansions in Willesden, north London, houses 168 squatters and has inspired a vigorous campaign to save the building. Campaigners claim that the existing building can house more people than any replacement, but the landlord Brent Council wants to demolish it.

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In-House Salaries

Our 20th annual survey of in-house lawyers' salaries is now ready for publication. It shows the average increase, 1992-93, to be 3.8%. This is the third lowest since our survey began in 1974, but is an improvement on last year's 3.2% increase. It confirms the impression we get from clients, that salaries are at last being 'unfrozen'. Viewed in the light of the remarkably low level of inflation, it is encouraging.

The highest earnings are those of the top 10% of senior legal advisers aged 45-60: £170,189. The lowest are those for the bottom 10% of legal assistants in the 25-29 year range: £23,750. Overall, the average for senior legal advisers is £92,335; for middle ranking legal advisers, £64,777; and for legal assistants, £49,284.

80% of in-house lawyers are male, and they earn on average 16% more than their female colleagues.

Salary increases vary by location. The greatest increases were seen in the South East (11%), followed by the North (9%). London registered 4%, while the South West and the Midlands registered around 1%. These differences clearly reflect the way in which the recession has affected the regions. The Midlands was particularly hard-hit, and is taking longest to recover. In terms of our salary survey, these regional variations have to be borne in mind when assessing the overall figures because most in-house lawyers work in London (43%) and the South East (32%). The large increase in the South East, therefore, has had a significant impact on the survey as a whole.

Next week, figures for different industries and for companies of different sizes.

Michael Chambers

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Entertainment: London
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Commercial Lawyer: Middlesex
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Company/Commercial Law: City
Small prosperous practice seeks senior solr with following to establish and head company/commercial dept and tap into firm's existing clientele.

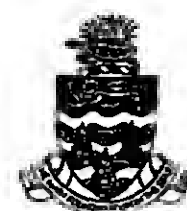
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The Members of 2 Hare Court are very pleased to announce that, with effect from 1st October 1993, they will be joined by three new members of Chambers, namely Mr Alastair Sutton (formerly of 3 Essex Court, Temple), Mr Thomas Croxford and Mr Javan Herberg. Mr Sutton will continue also to practice from the offices of Forrester Norall & Sutton in Brussels.

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Queen's Bench Division

Night flight proposals unlawful

Regina v Secretary of State for Transport, Ex parte Richmond upon Thames London Borough Council and Others
Before Mr Justice Laws
[Judgment September 20]

New rules for controlling night flying which the Secretary of State for Transport planned to introduce at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports were unlawful. They sought to determine the number of permissible flights by reference to a noise-based quota count assigned to each aircraft type, rather than by imposing a ceiling on the number of aircraft movements as required by section 78(3)(b) of the Civil Aviation Act 1982.

Mr Justice Laws held in the Queen's Bench Division granting an application by Richmond upon Thames London Borough Council, Windsor and Maidenhead Royal Borough Council, Tandridge District Council, Hillingdon London Borough Council and Slough Borough Council, for judicial review of the decision to introduce the new rules.

His Lordship also observed that Order 53 of the Rules of the Supreme Court should be changed so that a judge hearing an application for leave to seek judicial review could at that stage reject unmeritorious grounds while granting leave on other grounds.

Section 78 of the 1982 Act provides: "(3) If the Secretary of State considers it appropriate, for the purpose of avoiding, limiting or mitigating the effects of noise or vibration connected with the taking off or landing of aircraft at a designated aerodrome, to prohibit aircraft from taking off or landing, or limit the number of occasions on which they may take off or land, at

the aerodrome during certain periods, he may by a notice published in the prescribed manner do all or any of the following, that is to say: (a) prohibit aircraft of descriptions specified in the notice from taking off or landing at the aerodrome (otherwise than in an emergency of a description so specified) during periods so specified; (b) specify the maximum number of occasions on which aircraft of descriptions so specified may be permitted to take off or land at the aerodrome (otherwise than as aforesaid) during periods so specified."

Mr Richard Gordon for the applicants; Mr Ian Burnett for the Secretary of State.

MR JUSTICE LAWS said restrictions against night movements by aircraft had been in force at Heathrow since 1962 and a scheme which included Gatwick had been in force since 1988. That scheme was about to expire and the Secretary of State planned to substitute another including Stansted from October 24.

The existing means of control involved a direct limitation upon the number of take-off and landing movements permitted at night, to 5750 at Heathrow.

The new scheme assigned to each aircraft type a quota count, a number of units from 0.5 for the least noisy aircraft to 16 for the noisiest.

Each airport would have a given number of quota points (12,000 for Heathrow; 7,000 for Gatwick; 5,000 for Stansted). Aircraft movements in excess of the quota limit would be prohibited.

In the scheme, the two airports were treated as if they were one. Heathrow's entire 7,000 summer quota count was allocated to the noisiest aircraft the maximum number of movements would be 437.5.

Thereafter he done by reference to the permitted maximum of quota points.

That meant that within the ceiling defined by the maximum quota, aircraft operators would be free to choose how the quota was to be distributed between noisier and less noisy aircraft; they might operate a greater number of quieter planes or a lesser number of noisier ones.

The proposed scheme relied for its legality on section 78(3)(b) of the 1982 Act. But Mr Gordon had submitted that if the Secretary of State implemented it he would be doing something quite outside the words of the section.

He would not specify "the maximum number of occasions on which aircraft of descriptions so specified may be permitted to take off or land" but something quite different, namely the maximum number of quota points which aircraft operators were not to exceed.

Mr Burnett had said correctly that the scheme was intended to fulfil the express statutory purpose for which the power to make regulations had been conferred on the Secretary of State.

But the question was not whether the Secretary of State proposed to act for an alien purpose, which he did not, but whether the means he had chosen to give effect to the purpose of the subsection was within the permitted modes of doing so.

Mr Burnett had submitted that the scheme inevitably dictated a maximum number of movements for each aircraft type. But on the scheme, the quota points were allocated to aircraft types, not to movements. Heathrow's entire 7,000 summer quota count was allocated to the noisiest aircraft the maximum number of movements would be 437.5.

His Lordship said that logically the scheme involved the possibility that the number of maximum movements could include half a movement. A noise which specified maxima in such terms, whether expressly or by implication, would surely be struck down by the court as specifying something which could only exist in the pages of Lewis Carroll.

So far as the scheme might be said to imply the existence of maximum numbers of movements, they were theoretical only; they involved such a spurious number of possible combinations of movements among the quota count classes that the exercise of expressing them was wholly unreal.

The truth was that the concept of a maximum number of movements had in practical fact no part to play in the scheme of quota points. Yet under section 78(3)(b) it had to be the lynchpin of any order made. It followed that what was intended was not authorised by the subsection.

His Lordship rejected a number of other arguments raised by the applicants, some of which in his view were unavailing. He pointed out that the section 78(3)(b) issue could have been determined by reference only to the statute and a description of the intended policy, a few pages of documentation.

In fact the material before his Lordship on the whole case ran to hundreds of pages. It illustrated the need, which his Lordship regarded as pressing, for the provisions of Order 53 to allow the court to refuse leave to apply for judicial review on some grounds while granting it on others as in the view of the applicant's merits.

Solicitors: Mr Richard Gordon, Cambridge; Treasury Solicitor.

Granting pre-emptive costs order

McDonald and Others v Horn and Others
Before Mr Justice Vinelott
[Reasons July 26]

A pre-emptive costs order could be made in favour of employees who were representative plaintiffs in an action against their employers and the trustees of relevant pension funds, where they had not the resources to pursue major litigation and their claims were so strong that it was inconceivable that if an independent trustee were appointed, he would not apply for and obtain such order.

The court could before the hearing of the action appoint trustees in place of defendant trustees where the hearing was distant in time and the charges made were such as to justify the employees in testing confidence in them.

Mr Justice Vinelott so held in the Chancery Division in giving reasons for his decision on June 21.

(1) to appoint Neil Hunter Cooper and (2) Jacob Jacoby Jagger in place of Milford Medes Pension Trust Ltd ("MPT") and MFM Fund Management Ltd ("MFM") of two funds (the RFG fund and the RFS fund).

(3) to order that the plaintiffs, representative members of the Graphical Paper and Media Union having interests in those funds, be entitled to an order that their costs of proceedings in two consolidated actions, together with any costs they might be ordered to pay to any other party, on an indemnity basis, incurred between November 11, 1992 and the completion of discovery and inspection, be paid out of those funds — the pre-emptive costs order.

(4) that on completion of discovery the plaintiffs should, on notice to the Savings and Investment Board ("SIB"), forthwith apply to the court for directions as to the future prosecution of the actions.

Proceedings against the first, ninth and twelfth defendants had been stayed, the tenth and eleventh defendants were Robert Fletcher & Sons (Greenfield) Ltd and Robert Fletcher (Stoneclough) Ltd ("RFG") and "RFS" respectively, together, the relevant employees; the thirteenth and fourteenth defendants were the Pension Trustees, Graphical Paper and Media Union Trust Ltd and Imperial Group Pension Investment Trust Ltd (together, the Imperial trustees); the fifteenth to nineteenth defendants were Milford Medes Ltd ("MFM"), MPT, MFM, Nalun Ram Puri (the principal shareholder in MFM and director of MPT and MFM) and James Edward

Philpotts (a director of MPT and MFM).

On May 21, 1993 the SIB began independent proceedings against the last five defendants, pursuant to powers conferred by the Financial Services Act 1986, in respect of alleged breaches of the rules of the Investment Managers Regulatory Organisation, relating primarily to the purchase by MPT from MFM, on July 24, 1989, of shares in Marling Industries plc and by MPT, on October 10, 1990, of shares in Delaney Group plc.

Mr Terence Ethernott, QC and Mr Alastair Walton for the plaintiffs; Mr Jules Sher, QC, Mr Nicholas Warren, QC, Mr John Stephens and Mr Richard Hitchcock for the tenth, eleventh and twelfth defendants; Mr Charles Turnbull for the thirteenth and fourteenth defendants; Mr Sher, Mr Warren and Mr Stephens also appeared for the eighteenth and nineteenth defendants; Mr Nicholas Merriman, QC, for SIB.

MR JUSTICE VINELOTT said that on April 13, 1986, when the relevant employees within the Imperial Group of companies enjoyed unusually generous benefits under a pension scheme, of which the Imperial trustees were trustees, which, inter alia, prohibited any loans or payments to the employer or any amendment which might prejudice members' interests, a take-over bid by Harcourt Group plc for the Imperial Group failed.

On May 1 those employees were invited by those trustees to transfer before May 31 to one of two newly formed pension funds, the RFG fund and the RFS fund, and were assured that benefits under those funds would, as far as possible, be the same as before, also, that their trust deeds would restrict any alteration to the prejudice of members' rights.

On June 9 Hanson sold RFG and RFS, which respectively owned their parent company £6 million and nearly £4½ million, to MFL for a nominal consideration, on terms that provided for payment to that parent by MFL of £2 million of the former and just over £4 million of the latter by MFL to MFL, each for a nominal consideration.

The same day MPT, a £2 paid up subsidiary of MFL, replaced the Imperial trustees as trustee of each fund: since when, each trust deed had been amended so as to confer on MPT power to lend money to RFG or RFS on such terms as it might think fit.

The claims now made by the

plaintiffs in the consolidated action included:

1 MPT had not validly been appointed a trustee of the funds because its appointment had not been bona fide made in the members' interests but as part of a scheme for making the funds' actuarial surplus available to MFL;

2 The day after its appointment MPT had agreed to lend £4 million out of each fund to MFM on short-term loan;

3 On June 23 MPT had agreed to lend £5 million to MFM at 2 per cent per annum on the security of property valued at £2.7 million but already subject to a first charge in favour of a bank of £2 million, the inference being that such an inadequately secured and uneconomic loan must have been (a) to reimburse MFM for what it had spent to acquire RFS and RFG (b) a breach of trust;

4 On July 24, 1989 a nominee of MFM was said to have sold shares in Marling to a nominee for MFM for £3,749,600 but the legal title had not passed until November 6, 1990, when their value had fallen to £1,720,000;

5 In September 1990 Mr Puri had underwritten an unsuccessful rights offer by Delaney, in which he and MFM had a substantial stake and in October MPT had bought a substantial block at the offer price, their value since then having declined dramatically;

6 MPT had also invested substantially in companies, including one in which Mr Puri had an interest, only listed on the Bombay stock market;

7 An excessive proportion of the funds had been invested in property, including one leased to a company owned by MFM.

Pre-emptive costs order. An application for a pre-emptive costs order, by trustees who wished to protect themselves from possible personal liability for the costs of prosecuting or defending proceedings, normally referred to as a *Baddoe* summons (*In re Baddoe, Downes & Cottam* [1893] Ch 547), was commonly made in an action brought by or against a trustee to enforce the trust where the trustee had no personal interest in it, but was not restricted to that case: see *In re Dalloway* [1982] 1 WLR 756, *In re Evans* [1986] 1 WLR 1011, *Wallersteiner v Moir* [1975] 1 QB 373, *In re Westcott Reactions Ltd* [1988] BC 354, *In National Anti-Vivisection Society v Boddington* (The Times November 16, 1989). Mr Justice Vinelott had identified four factors as relevant: (a) the prospect of success; (b) whether the court was satisfied that it would after

trial order that costs be paid out of the funds; (c) the court's perception of the justice of the case so that an order should not be made where it might cast an unfair burden on a party even if his claim succeeded; (d) such special factors as were interested in the fund, where no party had a large enough interest to justify incurring the costs of litigation, or where in issue of general importance arose which might never be decided unless the costs came out of the fund.

In his Lordship's opinion, those factors pointed clearly in favour of making the order how sought. That would not inhibit or restrict the power of the final judge to award costs, but would simply recognise that, to the extent that trustees acted properly in their exercise of their powers, they were entitled to a lien on the trust fund for any costs incurred, including costs awarded against them.

His Lordship added that in particular:

1 Although nothing in this judgment should be read as in any way deciding any issue in the action, the claims could not be lightly dismissed. Some were the subject of SIB proceedings and it was inconceivable that independent trustees, if now appointed, would not apply for and obtain the court's authority to pursue them.

2 The beneficiaries were employees and ex-employees of the relevant employers, none of whom could be expected to have the resources to pursue major litigation.

3 Those beneficiaries had themselves contributed both in cash and in service, so as to be entitled to be satisfied that the fund was administered in a way which reflected their legitimate expectations, by trustees in which they had full confidence.

Appointments of judicial trustees. Although the court was always reluctant to appoint a judicial trustee where disputed charges against a trustee were the subject of litigation, at least if trust assets could in the interim be protected, it was now clear that the action could not be heard for many months add in the light of the grave charges laid by the SIB it was unjust that the administration of funds to which employees had contributed should be left in the hands of persons in whose fairness and probity they no longer had confidence.

Solicitors: Dith Lupton Broomfield, D. J. Freeman & Co; Nabarro Nathanson; Osborne Clarke; Denton Hall Burgin & Warrens.

Judge's duty to withdraw case from jury

Daley v The Queen
Before Lord MacKay of Clashfern, Lord Chancellor, Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Mustill, Lord Slynn of Hadley and Chief Justice Zacc

[Opinion August 18]

There was no conflict between *R v Turnbull* [1977] QB 224 and *R v Galbraith* [1981] 1 WLR 1039 in relation to a trial judge's duty to withdraw a case from the jury.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council so held when allowing an appeal by the appellant, Wilbert Daley, from the dismissal on July 13, 1988, by the Court of Appeal of Jamaica of his application for leave to appeal against his conviction on November 25, 1986, for murder.

Mr Mark Strachan, QC and Mr Michael Lazarus for the appellant; Mr James Guthrie, QC, for the Crown.

LORD MUSTILL said that the appellant was convicted of the murder of Mrs Beryl Smith and was sentenced to death. At the trial the only issue was whether the appellant was in fact correctly identified by the deceased's husband, Mr Kenneth Smith, as the man who had killed her. The evidence of Mr Smith to that effect was uncorroborated. The appellant made an unsworn statement from the dock saying that he was innocent.

Counsel made a submission to the trial judge that there was no sufficient case to go to the jury. In response, counsel for the prosecution cited *R v Galbraith* [1981] 1 WLR 1039 and an unreported decision of the Court of Appeal of Jamaica. The judge rejected the

submission, without giving reasons.

In her summing up she told the jury that there were serious weaknesses in the prosecution case from the point of view of identification, but it was a matter for them. After commenting at length on the weaknesses in the evidence of Mr Smith she warned the jury that the identification had not been very good. At the end of her directions she expressed her own opinion that the prosecution's case had not made the identification clear enough.

It had for many years been recognised that the trial judge had the power and the duty to withdraw the issue of guilt from the jury if he considered that the evidence was insufficient to sustain a conviction. On more than one occasion the appellate courts had intervened to circumscribe the exercise of the power to stop a trial at the end of the evidence from the prosecution.

First, there was *Practice Direction (Submission of No Case)* [1962] 1 WLR 227 in which the Divisional Court commented adversely on the excessive use of that practice. Later, there was the important statement of principle in *R v Barker* (Note) [1975] 65 Cr App R 287, 288, that it was not the judge's job to weigh the evidence, decide who was telling the truth, and to stop the case merely because he thought the witness was lying.

In *R v Turnbull* [1977] QB 224, 225-230 the principle was laid down governing the duty of the trial judge in cases where the prosecution relied on evidence of identification, around which the

present appeal revolved. "When, in the judgment of the trial judge, the quality of the identifying evidence is poor, as for example when it depends solely on a fleeting glance, or on a longer observation made in difficult conditions... The judge should then withdraw the case from the jury and direct an acquittal unless there is other evidence which goes to support the correctness of the identification."

Meanwhile, in *English* circles the controversy about the proper response of the trial judge to a submission of no case to answer continued unabated. An authoritative resolution became imperative, and the opportunity was furnished by *R v Galbraith* [1981] 1 WLR 1039.

In that case on appeal it was argued for the appellant that, given the analogy with the power to quash a conviction, the ground that it was unsafe, the judge ought to have pre-empted the risk of an unsafe verdict by withdrawing the case from the jury. That argument was rejected. The passage now most often quoted from *Galbraith* was (at p1042):

"How then should the judge approach a submission of 'no case'?"

"If there is no evidence that the crime alleged has been committed by the defendant, there is no difficulty. The judge will of course stop the case."

"The difficulty arises where there is some evidence but it is of a tenuous character, for example because of inherent weakness or vagueness or because it is inconsistent with other evidence. (a) Where the judge comes to the conclusion that the prosecution evidence, taken as a whole, is such that a jury properly directed could not properly convict upon it, it is his duty, upon a submission being made, to stop the case. (b) Where however the prosecution evidence is such that its strength or weakness depends on the view to be taken of a witness's reliability or other matters which are generally speaking within the province of the jury and where on one possible view of the facts there is evidence upon which a jury could properly come to the conclusion that the defendant is guilty, then the judge should allow the matter to be tried by the jury."

With the passage of time both *Turnbull* and *Galbraith* had repeatedly been cited and acted upon by the Court of Appeal in England. Furthermore, the principle in *Galbraith* had been consistently applied in Jamaica. As regards *Turnbull*, however, the position in Jamaica was for a time different.

In *Reid (Junior) v The Queen* [1990] 1 AC 363 it was made clear that the portion of the judgment in *Turnbull* which required the case to be withdrawn from the jury if the quality of the identification evidence was poor was as much a part of the law of Jamaica as was the remainder of the statement of principle in *Turnbull*. The relevant laws of the two countries were thus once more in accord.

It was while the laws were for a time out of alignment that the trial of the present appellant took place. The appellant's defence was that if the law on identification had been understood in Jamaica in 1986 as it was understood today the judge would have accepted the submission that the appellant had no case to answer.

It was desirable to say something about the manner in which the principles of *Turnbull* and *Galbraith* were able to live together. That they had to be able to do so, and that they had not taken place an accidental conflict of authority, was clear from their history. Although *Turnbull* was not referred to in *Galbraith* it was inconceivable that the court could have overlooked the parallel line of authority.

A reading of the judgment in *Galbraith* as a whole showed that the practice which the court was primarily concerned to prescribe was one whereby a judge who considered the prosecution evidence as unworthy of credit would make sure that the jury did not have an opportunity to give effect to a different opinion. By following that practice the judge was doing something which was not his job.

By contrast, in the kind of identification case dealt with by *Turnbull* the case was withdrawn from the jury not because the judge considered that the witness was lying, but because the evidence, even if taken to be honest, had a basic weakness which rendered it insufficient to found a conviction, and indeed, as *Turnbull* itself emphasised, the fact that an honest witness might be mistaken on identification was a particular source of risk.

When assessing the quality of the evidence under the *Turnbull* doctrine, the jury was protected from acting upon the type of evidence which, even if believed, experience had shown to be a possible source of injustice. Reading the two cases in that way, their Lordships saw no conflict between them.

Their Lordships recommended that the appeal should be allowed and the conviction quashed.

Solicitors: D. J. Freeman; Charles Russell.

Employer's duty to increase pension fund

British Coal Corporation v British Coal Staff Superannuation Fund Scheme Trustees Ltd and Others
Before Mr Justice Vinelott
[Judgment July 23]

British Coal Corporation (BC) had a contractual obligation to pay into the main fund of its staff superannuation scheme a sum equal to the additional cost of granting enhanced benefits to employees, so as to constitute a real, and not merely an actuarial, asset of the fund.

Mr Justice Vinelott so held in the Chancery Division, in ruling that BC (a) was not entitled to apply any part of the fund's 1989 million actuarial surplus in discharge or reduction of some £100 million of additional contributions by BC (required to meet the cost of providing enhanced benefits for members who were granted those benefits on accepting voluntary redundancy before April 5, 1993) and (b) could not amend the scheme or the rules in such a way as to confer such a power.

By clause 5 of the scheme ("1") BC and its wholly owned subsidiaries shall pay as standard contributions to the [fund] a sum equal to 17.08 per cent of the salaries paid [by them] to members employed by them in respect of any period during which a member is in contributing service.

"(2) BC shall make additional contributions to the scheme as shall from time to time be determined by the trustees, in respect of any period during which a member is in contributing service."

By rule 50(a), in special cases or classes of cases, terms differing from those otherwise applicable under the rules, any additional cost subject to the terms of clause 5 shall be paid by the trustees in such manner as the committee may decide after consulting the actuary except where BC considers and the committee agree that no such payment is necessary."

Clause 45(1) gave BC power, after consulting the trustees, to amend the scheme or the rules, subject, inter alia, to a proviso which precluded "... (f) making any of the money of the scheme payable any of the employers."

Mr Edward Nugge, QC and Mr Nicholas Warren, QC for BC; Mr Michael Hart, QC and Mr Christopher Tidmarsh for the scheme trustees; Mr Nigel Inglis-Jones, QC and Miss Sarah Aspin for the second and third defendants.

MR JUSTICE VINELOTT said that the scheme had been established by a resolution of BC with effect from January 1, 1947; the first defendant was appointed sole trustee of the fund in 1982. BC holding 1,001 out of its 2,001 issued shares, the other 1,000 being held by four trade unions.

The scheme was managed by a committee of eight: four appointees, including the chairman, who had a casting vote, of BC and four representatives, each appointed and removable by one of the unions.

Over the years, the scheme and the rules which complemented it had often been amended.

In 1983, when the workforce was reducing, arrangements were made between BC and the government for the cost of providing enhanced benefits for those taking voluntary redundancy would be paid by instalments with interest over a 10-year period and the committee, in exercise of a power under rule 50(a), agreed that BC could pay such additional costs by instalments.

The total outstanding instalments of capital due to the scheme, in respect of redundancies up to March 31, 1992, was £406.9 million and the interest that would accrue pending payment was £185.5 million as at the end of 1992.

What was at issue, was whether outstanding instalments of approximately £100 million, due on April 5, 1993, could be set

against the above-mentioned actuarial surplus.

For that to be done, an amendment to the scheme would be needed: but that could only be made if the desired set-off did not infringe restriction (f) under clause 45(1).

Proposals had been agreed between BC and the committee as to how the half-share of the actuarial surplus of 1989 was to be applied for members' benefit.

There was no way, apart from setting it against outstanding instalments of additional contributions, in which any substantial part of the other half of the 1989 could be applied for the benefit of BC.

Mr Nugge had submitted there was in principle no difference between a reduction, at the expense of an actuarial surplus, in BC's obligation to pay standard contributions, and extension of a liability to pay additional contributions: such liability carried with it

an implied right to ask the committee to set those instalments against that half of the surplus which was, under the scheme, applicable for BC's benefit.

However rule 50(a), together with clause 5(2), imposed on the employer an obligation to pay into the main fund a sum equal to the additional cost, actuarially ascertained, of granting the enhanced benefits.

It was not in dispute that, to the extent that BC had paid into the main fund the sums required to meet those additional benefits, to pay BC an equivalent sum out of that fund would be prohibited by proviso (f) to clause 45(1).

It made no difference that the committee had agreed that the actuarial sum might be paid by instalments.

Solicitors: Herbert Smith; Lovell White Durban; Stephens Innocent.

Ownership of gifts to church

In re St Anne's Church, Wrenthorpe

The vicar and the churchwardens were the owners and not the custodians or trustees of items furnished to the church as gifts, although the disposal of such gifts was at the discretion of the consistory court which, if permitted disposal, could impose terms.

The Chancellor of the Diocese of Wakefield, Mr Peter Collier QC, so held in a reserved judgment on September 23 when granting conditionally the faculty sought by petitioners, the vicar, the Rev James Butterworth, and two churchwardens, Mr Malcolm Enderby and Mr John Lindley, to

re-order the chancel and sanctuary of St Anne's Church, Wrenthorpe, and for permission to dispose of furniture and fittings no longer required for use in the worship and life of the church.

Correction. In *McFarlane v E. E. Caledonia Ltd* (The Times September 30) the first paragraph should have referred to a bystander in a rescue operation and not to a rescuer. Further, the video films had not provided evidence that a man of reasonable fortitude would be in fear of his safety and the judge below had not correctly applied the psychiatric shock test.

On those grounds, the European Court ruled:

1 A survivor's pension provided for by an occupational pension scheme having the characteristics of that in question in the main proceedings fell within the scope of article 119 of the EEC Treaty.

2 By virtue of the judgment of May 17, 1990 in *Case C-262/88 Barber v GRE* the direct effect of article 119 of the EEC Treaty might be relied upon, for the purpose of claiming equal treatment in the matter of occupational pensions, only in relation to benefits payable in respect of periods of employment subsequent to May 17, 1990, subject to the exception in favour of workers or those claiming under them who had, before that date, initiated legal proceedings or raised an equivalent claim under the applicable national law.

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THEATRE page 40

Madness in three
movements: Ken
Campbell's trilogy
comes to the National

ARTS

MUSIC page 41

A great Russian choir is
released from its
political shackles and
winning British friends



Polished clues to the colour of liberty

Krzysztof Kieslowski, the Polish director, talks to David Robinson about *Three Colours — Blue*, his new foray into the shadings of the mind

Few film-makers can lay claim to a style so distinctive that even a shot or two from a single film can never be mistaken for anyone else's work. Such a one is Krzysztof Kieslowski, the Polish director whose latest film, *Three Colours — Blue*, is about to hit British cinemas this week, fresh from its victory at the Venice Film Festival, where it shared the Gold Lion with Robert Altman's *Short Cuts*.

Visually, Kieslowski's films are characterised by dominant colours (like the muddy greens and khakis of *A Short Film About Killing* or the blue of *Blue*), extreme close-ups of inanimate details, and enigmatic reactions in the characters. All his stories are about the choices people have to make in their lives in a world of capricious chance, where small, inexplicable accidents are often fateful.

The films are characteristically full of puzzles: open-ended scenes that have no explanation. "These puzzles have no formal intention," Kieslowski says. "They are there because they are things that happen that I cannot explain myself. Also I like to set little traps, because people enjoy games."

Kieslowski's reputation as a world-class film-maker was not won overnight. For most people the revelation came only in 1989, with his monumental television series *Dekalog*, although by that time he already had a film-making career of more than 20 years and two dozen films behind him.

He was born in Warsaw in June 1941 and grew up in the traumatic years that saw the destruction and reconstruction of the city and the long disaster of communism. In 1969 he graduated from the legendary Lodz High School of Cinema and Theatre, a year or two after Krzysztof Zanussi and Jerzy Skolimowski.

While Zanussi and Skolimowski rapidly made their names with feature films, however, Kieslowski served a diligent apprenticeship in documentary, undertaking commissioned chores like *I Was a Soldier and Safety and Hygiene in a Bronze Factory*. By the mid-1970s, however, his documentaries, now with rather more provocative titles such as *First Love* and *As Seen by*

the Night Porter, were winning international awards.

After some initial fictional efforts for television, he made his first feature film — *The Scar*, about the ecological effects of ill-planned socialist industrialisation — in 1976. The real breakthrough, however, came in 1979 with *Amator*, shown in this country as *Camera Buff*. Somehow or other the film was insinuated into the Moscow Film Festival of that year, presumably under the guise of an innocent comedy about an enthusiastic amateur who finds himself recruited as an official factory cinematographer.

The film won the Moscow Grand Prix, to the delight of everyone except the Soviet bureaucrats who realised, too late, that Kieslowski's film was in fact a scathing satire of the official dogmas and public lies of "socialist realism".

The film's hero finds that his eager recording of the real life and personnel of the factory gets him into hot water; the authorities want only a suitably expurgated view of communism.

In 1984, following Poland's Solidarity era and the resulting political clampdown and martial law after 1981, Kieslowski made his darkest film, *Without End*, in which he began to evolve his unique style. The first and frankest film about that turbulent era, this firmly established Kieslowski as the natural successor to Andrzej Wajda as an outspoken east European commentator on the last years of socialism.

Three Colours — Blue, his second film in France, is the first part of a trilogy based on the colours and concepts of the Tricolore — Liberty, Equality and Fraternity — in the same way that the ten biblical commandments provided loose themes for the episodes of the *Dekalog*. "But, as with *Dekalog*, the story is always much more important than resolving a philosophical concept," he says.

All three stories have already been shot. The first takes place in Paris, the second in Warsaw, the third in Geneva. The first is about a young woman who has been abruptly widowed, the second is a love story about a young man and the third a lyrical comedy about an elderly man. In *Three Colours —*



It took decades for Krzysztof Kieslowski to become an overnight success, first with *A Short Film About Killing*, and now with the award-winning *Three Colours — Blue*

Blue the subject is liberty. The woman is trying to liberate herself from life in my view a liberty that is impossible.

"In the *Dekalog* all the people in the stories lived in the same block of flats so their paths were always crossing. The *Three Colours* trilogy is a cycle in the same way, but here we have three quite separate films, with separate casts. There are just occasional links this time. In *Blue*, Juliette Binoche stumbles by mistake into a courtroom scene which we shall see again in the *White* story. There she will just do a walk-on. I may say I never paid so much for an extra in my whole life."

Binoche was his first choice. "Ever since I saw her in *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* I knew I wanted to work with her: she always appears as the custodian of some deep, dark secret."

"When I wrote *Blue* I knew it would be for her. She understood the role, and she has great craft. She insisted on coming and hearing the music being recorded so that she really understood it. On the set she and I always communicated in English, because I don't speak French."

"If you choose the right actors your work is really done for you. And it is true not only of the actors."

You have to cast the crew well, and even the producer and myself. Then everything works well."

Music plays a pre-eminent role in *Three Colours — Blue*, which ends with an eight-minute musical epilogue. "For those who know about music this has an element of 'memento' — something to remind you of what has happened before. The last two minutes, for instance, are a variation on the music that was heard at the funeral of the heroine's husband at the beginning. The epilogue serves not so much as a resolution but as a kind of admonition. The film was shot for the music. All the music — the

concerto and the epilogue — was recorded in advance."

For Kieslowski, the principal point of creation is always the editing room. "In the editing you really discover what the film is about. The script is only a set of notes of possibilities, which are fully realised during editing."

"This is just my method. Other directors work quite differently. When he had finished a script René Clair used to say: 'All we have to do now is shoot it. It is finished.' That way was right for him. For me it is completely the opposite."

"I don't mean that the actual dialogue changes from the script,

although there is always a lot more. I always end up with a much longer film which I then pare away. The original cut of *Blue* was 2 hours 40 minutes. After that you have to take away everything that is not essential. The process is long, but it is the secret of editing. Only in the fifth or sixth version of the editing do I discover the essence."

"I just watched the first version of the *Red* story and at present I find it terrible, because I don't know where the essence of the finished film lies. At the moment I'm still throwing out great chunks, trying to find out what is missing. But I shall find the essence in the end."

More questions than answers

DANCE: Choreographer Ohad Naharin is giving little away about *Mabul*, his work at London's Umbrella festival

Interviewing choreographers is often a delicate business, and the Dance Umbrella festival brings an awful lot of them to London. "Why," you might venture, "did you present those movements, that total darkness, those dancers standing on their heads?" You receive an answer of evasive shrugs and shuffles. Plough on desperately, with the blunt, burning question, "What does it mean?" and you are dead.

With ambiguity comes that highly desirable quality, resonance. Do not explain, do not prescribe an interpretation, a choreographer's argument goes. Let audiences make of it what they will. Even if the informal discussions that will follow some Dance Umbrella shows might yield fruitful clues (contrary to frequent past experience), Ohad Naharin, choreographer and director of the Batsheva Dance Company from Israel, is giving little away in advance.

His piece, *Mabul*, at the Queen Elizabeth Hall tonight, kicks off four Umbrella weeks, with 20 other companies and the soloists from the United States, Japan, Holland, Spain and France. But the only specific comment he seems prepared to volunteer about *Mabul* is: "Mabul in Hebrew means flood, or any flood — of water, of words, of ideas. — of the piece itself is a bit like a flood."

dancers, certainly surges forward with an epic sweep. Does it signify a journey through life? Why does it include Vivaldi's *Stabat Mater*? Did Naharin set forth a duality, evoking both the particular and universal, Israel and the world? Pressed, he reels off a shopping list of concepts. "I think I am trying to say something about equality, freedom, female strength, chaos, the inevitability of death."

But he would rather not define his intentions. "It is secondary that the audience understands exactly what I mean. For me, their best response is to make contact with their own experience." Shorter pieces by Naharin have been shown by companies in Britain before, but he is better known in Europe, where he has worked with Netherlands Dance Theatre, the Cullberg Ballet, the Geneva Ballet, the Frankfurt Ballet. I suggest that *Mabul* resembles European contemporary dance in its style. He does not disagree, but he does not agree either. Does he then consider it to be particularly Israeli? No, he says, and Israeli to the six different points in his company.

He himself has a varied dance background, beginning with Batsheva in 1975, which with Naharin was an untrained recruit, barely out of the army. By then the company no longer devoted itself exclusively to the Martha Graham style to the Martha Graham doctrine and repertory with



Taken at the flood — a scene from Batsheva's *Mabul*

which Batsheva de Rothschild had founded it in 1963. But that did not stop Graham inviting him a year later to join her own company in New York. He went; then moved to Béjart's company in Brussels; then returned to New York to work independently as a dancer and choreographer. Since 1990, he has been back with Batsheva, heading dancers who perform a repertory of mostly his work, supplemented by pieces from choreographers such as Angelin Preljocaj (France), Jiri Kylian (Netherlands) and Ralph Lemon (USA).

In *Mabul*, the cast devours the stage, plunging itself dangerously in the movement. Those who dance for Naharin must have an "honest" way of moving. "Though they can be beautiful they must not think of their beauty when they dance. Some performers have

a hard time letting go, taking a chance; but for me it's important to feel that they go beyond their own familiar limits."

Does he accept that he uses an eclectic and vernacular dance language? "What I think I try to do is get away from the sense of a dance method." He says he uses the rules of a strict technique in order to achieve the appearance of visceral spontaneity. "So we look like we have the freedom of ordinary people, but the virtuosity of dancers. The kind of experience I try to create can only happen if the audience does not feel the schooling. The less they feel it, the more intense and real the experience."

NADINE MEISNER

© Batsheva Dance Company is at the Queen Elizabeth Hall (071-928 8800) tonight and tomorrow at 7.45pm

A silver-throated anniversary party

Montserrat Caballé provides her own festivities in the Festival Hall

Last Saturday Montserrat Caballé celebrated, with a little help from her friends and one close relative, the 25th anniversary of her first London appearance. It was not her British debut, made three years earlier at Glyndebourne as a none-too-well prepared Marschallin in *Der Rosenkavalier*.

At the time it was probably painful: now the memory is likely to elicit one of Caballé's famous chorles. But by 1968 she was a star, thanks in large measure to Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, with which she launched herself on London.

Caballé, introducing her own Festival Hall programme and so breathing warmth and informality into that staid hall, mentioned *Lucia* and added swiftly that she was "not going to attempt the role tonight."

But she did take the audience on a canter, mainly operatic, through her career. There was other and less demanding Donizetti — arias from *Fausta* and *La Betly*. And most especially there was Rossini, culminating in the duet "Serbami ognor" from *Semiramide*. Here she was joined by a regular partner, Marilyn Horne. The sound of the two 60-year-olds attacking

one of Rossini's grandest operas, even with only piano accompaniment (Manuel Burguera), was heady stuff for the connoisseurs.

Earlier Caballé had generously passed Juliet's "O quante volte" from Bellini's *I Capuleti* to her daughter, Montserrat Martí. Martí displayed all mama's purity of line and has clearly had the best of instruction in Bellini.

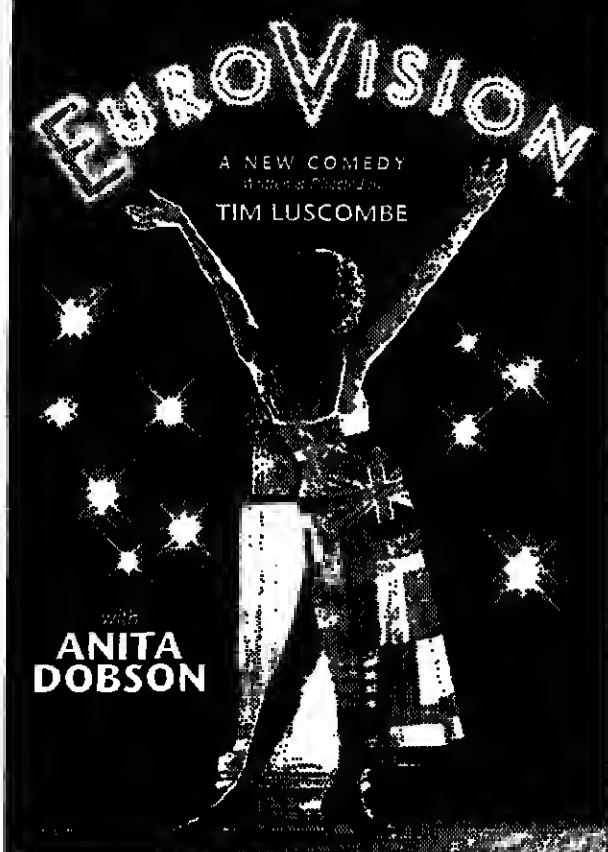
After the interval Caballé senior moved into the 20th century and more popular items with Puccini ("O mio babbino caro"), a snatch of *Bohème* and, best of all, Cilea's "Io son l'umile ancella" from *Adriana Lecouvreur*. By this time Caballé's soprano was thoroughly warmed, ready to flow when needed at full throttle.

Michael Ball arrived for a duet from *Phantom of the Opera*. The microphones came with him and then were swiftly whisked away. Caballé's bubbling sense of humour, all too rarely used on stage, came out in a final set of zarzuela numbers, accompanied by a highly attentive castanet-clicking professor who appeared to have stepped straight from a flamenco troupe.

JOHN HIGGINS

PREVIEWS FROM 2 NOVEMBER OPENS 10 NOVEMBER

Andrew Lloyd Webber presents a Kevin Wallace production



ANITA DOBSON
A NEW COMEDY
A play by TIM LUSCOMBE
and CHARLES EDWARDS as Kevin
Choreographed by RICHARD SAMPSON
Lighting Design by JENNY CANE
Sound Design by NICK GILPIN
Original Songs by JASON CARR
Designed by ROB HOWELL

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BIM-BAM-BOM!
THE MUSIC OF THE 1950S
WITH THE ORIGINAL CAST

LONDON

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL: Opening night for Peter Hall's clear production of one of the "problem plays". Sophie Thompson stars as the determined husband-hunter. Pk, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 8891), 7pm (G)

DANCE UMBRELLA, winner of the 1992 Prudential Award for the Arts, opens as last night's winner. The dance company will perform Chet Williams' moodily and compelling *Meat* (with preview, page 38). Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-608 8800). Tonight, 7.45pm. Appearances continue throughout London until Nov 5 (G)

PERFORMER PICK OF THE FRINGE SEASON 1993: This evening's programme includes a performance from Domestique Holland, "1993 Performer Most Promising Newcomer". He travels through the absurdities of everyday life. The *Heartbreak Kid*, a comedy written by Tony Hawks and directed by Audrey Cocks, follows on. Parnell Room, South Bank, SE1 (071-608 8800), 7.30pm and 9.15pm.

VICTOR SANGHVI, the young Australian pianist, gives a recital of virtually all of the original solo piano

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

works of Igor Stravinsky. Actor Andrew Sachs will provide a mission written specially for the performance. St John's, Smith Square, W1 (071-727 5004), 7.30pm (G)

ELSEWHERE

LIVERPOOL: The Welsh National Opera arrived with Peter Stein's magnificent production of Verdi's *Macbeth*. Donald Macleod in the title role heads a strong cast which includes Bryn Terfel, Suzanne Murphy and Clara Phipps. Royal Liverpool, 11-12 Beaumont Street, L3 (0151-709 1555), 7.15pm (G)

OXFORD: The Playhouse presents Jim Cartwright's award-winning *The Rose and the Little Boy*. Julia Foster and Anthony Cocks star. The show is directed by Andy Hay. Playhouse Theatre, 11-12 Beaumont Street, OX1 (01865-259000) (G)

NORTHAMPTON: The Musical Theatre presents the much-loved

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only
Some seats available
Seats at all prices

last play, completed by Charles Wood. Puckling but a must for fans. Directed by William Denny. National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-329 2252). Today, 2.30 and 7.30pm (G)

FOREVER PLAINS: Genial and witty performance of American show that pays homage to the four-part harmony groups of the 1950s. Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5070). Mon-Thurs, 8pm; Fri, Sat, 8.30pm; Sun, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm (G)

AN INSPECTOR CALLS: Stephen Daldry's marvellously re-imagined version of Pinter's social thriller. Aligned, Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5070). Mon-Thurs, 8pm; Fri, Sat, 8.30pm; Sun, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm (G)

MACHINAL: Stephen Daldry's second production here is the American Sophie Treadwell's experimental drama from 1928. Fiona Shaw plays a woman battling against the pressure of a mechanistic age. National Theatre (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-329 2252). Previewing until Thurs, 7.30pm. Opens Oct 15, 8pm. Then in repertory (G)

MARVIN'S ROOM: Alison Steadman and Carmel McSherry in Scott McPherson's touching comedy about a Florida family at a time of crisis. Transfer after its Hampstead sell-out. Comedy, Parnell Room, SE1 (071-608 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm (G)

MOONLIGHT: A man on his deathbed rages against the dying of the light in Pinter's new play. Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5070). Mon-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm (G)

THE MOUNTAIN GIANTS: Sam Thomas, Desmond Burt in Pinter's

British premiere of Lloyd Newson's new work. *WGSN*, a comedy, features the return of the choreographer to his early theme of male sexuality. Highly surprising that all the dancers are men. Nottingham Playhouse (0202 419418). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm (G)

NORTHWICH: The Old Vic presents Touring Opera continues its 25th anniversary celebrations with Nicholas Hyman's neo-classical production of *Lucretia*. Nigel Robin stars the role of the magnificent ruler. Anne Williams King appears as Lucretia and Fiona Jones as Sextus. The production of Mozart's last opera is also noted for David Harding's striking Romanesque designs. Romanesque were specially commissioned for Glyndebourne from the late Stephen Oliver. Heron, Theatre Street (0693 830000) (G)

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THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale laughs his free socks off at the anarchy of Ken Campbell

The man who saved the Queen

Jamais Vu
Cottesloe

AS WE entered the Cottesloe, each critic was handed a gift from Ken Campbell, author and sole performer of *Jamais Vu*. This was a pair of Australian socks emblazoned with the boast that they fell up instead of down the ankles. How, I wondered, did etiquette demand that we reciprocate? In an impulsive moment I considered sending Campbell my own socks, but each of them seemed to be a different hue and somewhat in need of detoxification. So now I must thank him in the only way I can, which is by giving him a good review.

God knows, he deserves it. Does anybody work harder? *Jamais Vu* is the one-man equivalent of David Hare's *Absence of War*, lasting (as it does) three hours and bringing to a climax the trilogy that also includes the excellent *Future Nudist* and *Pigsport*. And is anybody in the theatre more authentically odd?

Campbell bumbles onstage pushing a tatty shopping-cart, a bald troll in an oatmeal overcoat and a pink-and-green striped vest. He looks like the sort of man I'd find one day meeting on the street or sitting beside on the tube, because I know he will start harping on me in a shrill nasal bleat about the Bomb or the ozone layer.

And that is pretty much what Campbell does here, sometimes with a too plunger on his head and a plastic penis dangling from his nose, sometimes without.

We are not to call him mad, he says, because it upsets his daughter. Very

well. Let's agree to call him an Ancient Mariner who collects paranoid tales from other Ancient Mariners. He begins *Jamais Vu* by describing how his obsession with John Birt (a suit with nothing inside except "a cloud of not-to-be-inquired-into") led him to a loony bin in Hounslow.

There, a man who thinks he is the real Birt, and certainly struck Campbell as more real than John Birt, told him how television was modifying our oculo-endocrine systems, how the French were proposing to nuclear-blast a new continent into being, how the Ice Age Elite was proposing to survive global freezing, and much else besides.

I must say I was not altogether sure how this linked with Billy Connolly's attempts to subvert the Royal Family by swearing too much or with the fact (gleaned by Campbell from a barrister reduced by bad breath to living in a cardboard box) that the National Theatre is a military fort temporarily housing the arts. Nor do I know why fluorescent light makes the testicles go mouldy, at least in Chelmsford.

But I did not care, first because I was laughing too much, then because Campbell launched on an elaborate description of his efforts to save the House of Windsor by tracking down Duke of Edinburgh cultists in the New



Ken Campbell plumbs the depths of sanity in the one-man *Jamais Vu*

Hebrides. He clearly succeeded, for the Queen is still on the throne.

Perhaps I am influenced by Campbell's bribe, which fission my feet as I write, but I don't think there is a more hilariously anarchic talent on the loose in the British theatre. This time, we leave him on the island of Tanna,

wearing only a sock, drunk on fermented cud, watching a Prince Philip worshiper ritually hurl pies into a volcano while giant scrolls float from vast buttocks floating in the sky.

Next time, what? Certainly nothing anti-climatic. Of that and only that we can be sure.

CONCERTS: Stephen Pettitt on staple period-instrument fare, and (below) three new works

THERE was a time when those new-fangled baroque orchestras, even if they might not play very well, looked like they would be useful in effecting a change in concert planning, putting the emphasis on the repertoire rather than the performer. No baroque players were very famous in those days, so unheard composers like Rebel or Muffat were given their chance, as were unheard pieces by more familiar figures.

But now that has changed. The leading figures are stars rather than pioneers, so they can afford a little complacency in what they choose. Here, for instance, was the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra, serving up for its main course that old standby, Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*. These are unarguably great pieces, but we do hear them too often; and it would have been better

A year is a long time in Baroque music

Echoes of an ancient thunder

A great Russian choir has rediscovered its roots in sacred music. Richard Morrison hears the results at the Norwich Festival

Whatever happens to Russia, its greatest choir will surely survive. After all, it has lasted five centuries already. Ivan III, with an uncharacteristic nod towards the gender virtues, established it in 1479. Since then it has regularly sung through wars, purges, revolutions, sieges and famines. The present political turmoil is merely par for the course.

I heard it in Norwich Cathedral on Saturday, during the opening weekend of the Norfolk and Norwich Festival. The place was packed, the audience entranced by the majestic modal harmonies rolling down the great medieval nave. In that charged atmosphere it was quite possible to suspend logic and to believe that this was much the same sort of sound as would have soothed the savage Ivan.

Such is the emotive power of the 60 singers currently touring Britain under the unprepossessing title "Glinka State Choir of St Petersburg". In fact, their predecessors sang under many different titles, depending on the whim of the prevailing despot. Catherine the Great called them her "Imperial Court Cappella"; Lenin preferred "Popular Academic Chorus". They can call themselves the Yelstin Yodelers as far as I am concerned, as long as they continue to sing with this extraordinary ardour.

The sound is unlike anything that a British choir could produce — or would want to, because taste is involved here as well as tradition. I do not know whether the Glinka Choir always stands as it did on Saturday — with the basses at the front, and the sopranos (raised up) at the back — but it seemed entirely appropriate, because the bass sound is not only subterranean in range (every place, from the 18th-century Borntansky to the 20th-century Rachmaninov, seemed to take the barrel-chested ones to bottom C or below) but is massively powerful as well.

This affects not only the choral texture, as thick and warm as a rug, but also the attack. Chorists like rifle shots: all brilliance and sudden

impact. The Russians, however, propel a chord into life as if launching a rocket: there is half a second of gathering ignition, before the sound reaches full thunder. A single chord in Rachmaninov's *All-Night Vigil* was made to last all of 20 seconds: a glorious rumble rising and falling like some colossal earth tremor.

Once a phrase is launched, moreover, it is sustained in a way that is utterly alien to "good choral style" as taught in our own cloistered establishments. Smoothness is all, and that sometimes means sliding between different notes. Even the intonation used by the Russians seems different: the major thirds are not as sharp and bright as a good English choir would make them.

But the chief difference is in the emotional impact. On Saturday a dozen or so soloists stepped out of the ranks at one time or another, and each sang with a stunning intensity — whether intoning an ancient Orthodox chant, or adding a vibrant descant above the choir's whispered chords.

This passion for projecting the great anthems of the Russian Orthodox Church is surely genuine, and yet it conceals an extraordinary fact. For only since the start of Gorbachev's *perestroika* revolution has this choir again been allowed to explore the sacred repertoire which it was founded to sing.

Indeed, the greatest of all Russian Orthodox compositions — the *All-Night Vigil* by Rachmaninov, which was brilliantly performed here under Vladimir Chernoussenko — was only given its full Russian premiere by the choir in 1982. For the 60 years prior to that, the repertoire imposed on this choir by its communist masters was all too often of the "Happy Song of Siberian Tractor-Drivers Achieving Their Five-Year Plans" variety.

I do not know whether Russia is a happier or better place for having officially readmitted God into the country. The evidence so far is inconclusive, to put it mildly. But I do know that hearing a great Russian choir again being permitted



Orthodox in image and song: this icon, *The Virgin and Child of Georgia*, dates, like Tsar Ivan III's choir, from the 15th century

to sing these immensely moving, ritualistic choral tones is a breakthrough on a par with the reintroduction of baroque instruments into Bach performance. And the repertoire being offered on this tour is a mere taste of the choral riches yet to be explored from Russia's troubled history. Let us hope that the exploration is unhindered in future by warped political agendas.

The choir's visit is just one of many windows onto eastern Europe at this year's excellent Norfolk and Norwich Festival. Two others were opened in Sunday's concert by the immaculately groomed Leipzig

Chamber Orchestra under Georg Meisdorf. First, the British cellist Steven Isserlis gave us a performance of Tchaikovsky's *Rococo Variations* as if he had heard. A tricky piece to bring off, the soloist must indulge his classical nudges and winks without diluting his genuine sentiment. Isserlis trod this tightrope with wondrous ease; he was fabulously light-fingered in mercurial passages, yet stirringly strong in the big climaxes.

Then came the world premiere of the Concerto for Violin and 13 Strings by Dmitri Smirnov. He and

his wife, the composer Elena Firsova, are heavily featured in Norwich this year. Inspired, as so often with Smirnov, by William Blake's visionary works — this time the painting, *Jacob's Ladder* — the one-movement concerto is mostly a beautiful rhapsody for the soloist, in which the "ladder" is represented by ever rising or falling semitones. An obvious idea, but elegantly crafted.

Smirnov's chief characteristic is his unselfconscious ability to borrow freely from the cadences of bygone eras, and to mesh these near-quotations with lush, Lutoslawski-like string textures. The

heart of this work, for instance, was a tranquil chorale in absolutely basic tonal harmonies. But whereas Shostakovich or one of the other world-weary Soviet composers would have spiked such backward glances with irony, Smirnov seems to have transcended the old bitterness. When his music works — and this concerto solidly delivered by the Leipzig leader, Andreas Seidel — it really does achieve a Blake-like vision, in which pre-communist "innocence" and post-communist "experience" can be observed as two sides of the same coin.

the evening, Clive James turned up telling everybody how easy it was to learn Japanese. At any rate, it was easy to give an impression of speaking good Japanese, since the main thing was to go on saying "hello", "goodbye" and "thank you" all the time, especially "thank you". Even if you get bumped off a tram, say "thank you", he advised — and demonstrated how to. This was only one of a whole set of lively language programmes on Radio 5 on Sunday evening, in the week when the future of that channel is being decided. Let me hope that imaginative educational ideas like these will not be lost.

DERWENT MAY

Their first British hit, "Two Princes" (featuring an inspired extended guitar break from Eric Sienkman), truly set the house alight, and while its subject matter remained inscrutable (is it about infidelity, schizophrenia or mere duality?), the uninhibited cavorting among the thirtysomethair audience was as joyous as it was unchoreographed.

ADRIAN DEEVOY

Heathrow "is a more authentic part of the public realm than anywhere else in London," said one speaker on Radio 4's new Sunday series about urban living, *City Lights, City Shadows*. This — he explained — was because Heathrow had real drama going on in its concourses all the time, and in addition offered thousands of low-paid jobs, with people constantly moving in and out of them.

It was about the most cheerful remark on a predominantly whingeing programme. Everybody else was grumbling, very loosely and vaguely, about city life in Britain, in minute after minute of low-grade vox pop. Towards the

Stop griping and show some grit

RADIO REVIEW: Comfortable academics may moan about urban life, but others are being more positive

end of the programme a more specific complaint did emerge: that the efforts of cities like Sheffield and Liverpool to regenerate themselves by building glamorous sports stadiums or glitzy pedestrian areas were doing very little to help the necessary "wealth generation". This may indeed be true. Yet the overall impression the programme left was of comfortable Northern academics, led by the presenter David Harvey, just leaning back and saying "Why doesn't someone do something?" Fortunately the rest of Sun-

day's radio provided plenty of people who were doing something, and doing it vigorously, to the benefit of town and country alike. The day began well with a splendid woman, Helen Browning, giving breakfast to Robin Page in *On Your Farm* (Radio 4). She runs a small organic farm in Wiltshire, and is paying meticulous attention to every aspect of what she is doing. She is

concerned with the welfare of the animals, the wise and severely limited use of chemicals, the preservation of wildlife — yet she is making her carefully prescribed business a commercial success in every way. Her village shop can hardly cope with the orders she gets — and she still finds the time to share her experience with others as chairman of British Organic Farmers.

Robin Page could not stop talking about the excellence of the sausages he was eating.

At lunchtime, another woman, the young ENO singer Lesley Garrett, came over as a very vigorous and delightful personality on *Desert Island Discs* (Radio 4). She had not in the least minded baring her bottom or walking a tightrope

in operas she had performed in, but she was quite firm that the music must always come first, and that all the visual invention that opera directors were now obliged to come up with must remain true to the composer's intentions. Northern spirit was on good display here: when she was at a low ebb a few years ago after a kidney operation, her mother had sent her an envelope full of stones, with a note saying "Here's some Yorkshire grit for you."

Finally, in a new series, *In Other Words*, on Radio 5 in

Funds for the folks

BRITISH folk art has been saved for the nation. As reported on these pages, the Crane Kalman Collection of English Naive Art was in danger of being sold off piecemeal. Now the collection, assembled by the Hungarian-born London art dealer Andras Kalman and his wife, has been bought by the Peter Moores Foundation. Renamed as the British Folk Art Foundation, it will now remain on display at the Countess of Huntingdon Chapel in Bath.

Moore's Littlewood pools her whose patronage extends across several different art-forms, commented: "We could not allow this enchanting document of English social history, so painstakingly and lovingly collected by Andras Kalman over some 35 years, to disappear from public view and be lost to us for ever." More than 100 works by English folk artists from 1750 to 1965 — ranging from paintings to weather vane — are included in the collection.



A painting from the Crane Kalman collection of folk art: its future is now secure

THE new opera house at Glyndebourne will be re-opened on May 28 next year, the 60th anniversary of the first Glyndebourne Festival's opening night. Not surprisingly, Glyndebourne has also opted for the same opera: *Le nozze di Figaro*. Bernard Haitink, a former Glyndebourne music director, will conduct. Also in the 1994 season are new productions of *Eugene*

ARTS BRIEFING

Onegin and *Don Giovanni*, directed by Deborah Warner and Graham Vick respectively, with Simon Rattle and Andrew Davis conducting. And there will be revivals of *Peter Grimes* and *The*

Rake's Progress. So far Glyndebourne has raised £30.5 of the £33 million cost of the new house.

Top feet

IT WAS a case of three times lucky for John Ashford, director of The Place Theatre in London. Last week he walked away with Britain's top prize for dance, the £30,000 Digital Premier Award, after having

been shortlisted three times. Ashford flew in from the Festival International de Nouvelle Danse in Montreal to collect his award, given each year to the individual making an outstanding contribution to dance.

Ashford plans to use the award money to enable international dance companies to present their work in Britain, both on larger stages and at The Place, as part of next year's Turning World dance festival. The Place itself also picked up an award to commission a work from Belgian choreographer Michele Anne de Mey.

BRITAIN's newest Euro-vision songbird is the "acclaimed singing star" Frances Ruffelle, chosen by the BBC to represent the UK at next year's contest in Ireland. Ruffelle is best known for her Tony Award-winning performance at the age of 21 as Eponine in the original Broadway production of *Les Misérables*. She is the second *Les Mis* star to represent Britain: Michael Ball was runner-up in 1992.

Prior to the big night in April, Ruffelle will take part in *A Song For Europe* on BBC1, performing the songs written for her. Viewers will then vote for the number they think she should sing on April 30.

CONCERT: an Oscar-winning composer makes a plea for peace

A universe in harmony

LSO/Hamlisch/
Bolton
Barbican Hall

If there was an award for political correctness in new music Marvin Hamlisch would surely pick it up. His *Anatomy of Peace*, a first crossover into symphonic music by the composer of *A Chorus Line* and triple Oscar winner for his film scores, makes the same call for universal brotherhood as did Beethoven in his Ninth Symphony finale, not to mention many other composers since.

Introduced by a short but eloquent homily on the evils of war by the actor Ben Kingsley, the work was given its European premiere at a London Symphony Orchestra concert in aid of United World Colleges and the Variety Club of Great Britain. Hamlisch himself conducted, in place of Richard Hickox, who was unwell.

While no Bernstein in his control of a large orchestra, Hamlisch followed that maestro in exploiting the vein of sentiment that courses through the musical *lingua franca* of theatrical parables. A recurring flute phrase symbolising one universal law is given increasing emotional weight, more than it can reasonably bear, until it spills

over into a setting for boy treble (here the clear and assured Conrad Burrows) and his fellow chorists of St Paul's Cathedral) of a simplistic poem by David Zippel about joining the world by one law.

Hamlisch's missionary zeal



Marvin Hamlisch: music fired by missionary zeal

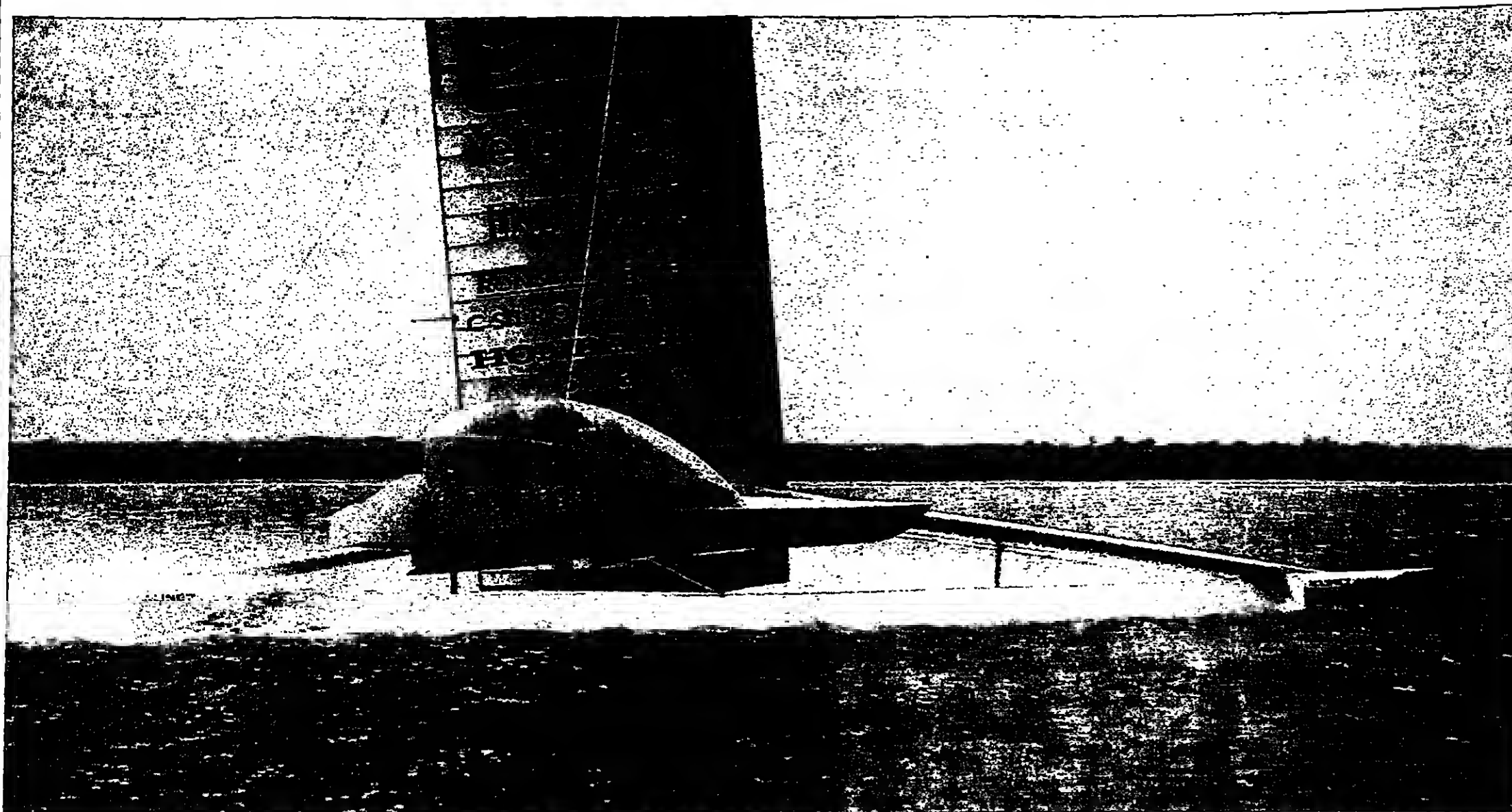
can be applauded even if its musical working out is a touch glib as rhythmic energy and orchestral stridency in waltz-time is subdued by quiet lyricism and a fully signposted sense of harmonic direction. Credit to the flute, cello and oboe soloists, and the horn section, for distinctive contributions to a work that may not change the world but is unlikely to make it worse.

It followed an operatic first half conducted by Ivor Bolton in which Ruggero Raimondi was a virtuoso bass soloist. Sorrowful and resigned with great dignity in "The Death of Don Quixotte" from Massenet's opera, he excelled in his visual as well as musical characterisations of the European Community types saluted in the florid "Medaglie incomparabili" from Rossini's *Il viaggio a Reims*, sung with winning verve and tongue-twisting flexibility.

Bolton also conducted a tripping account of the *sinfonia* to the finale of this opera, although the ballet suite from Massenet's *Le Cid* reflected more dogged insistence than rhythmic élan.

NOEL GOODWIN

Australia's fast lady out to break 50 knots



Yellow Pages Endeavour, the new holder of the world speed-sailing record, shows off her radical design features as she sends the spray flying off the Victorian coast at the weekend

By BARRY PICKTHALL

SAILING at twice the speed of the wind, two Australian sailors, Simon McKean and Tim Daddo, set a speed record of 46.02 knots (53.20mph) on Sunday in a sheltered bay south-east of Melbourne.

Their radical looking tri-folier, Yellow Pages Endeavour, added 0.68 of a knot to the previous record held by the French boardsailer, Thierry Bielak. The Australians are now looking to break the 50-knot barrier during further attempts this week.

Lindsay Cunningham, the designer of this flimsy 12-metre high craft, whose C class catamarans have dominated the Little America's Cup since 1985, was ecstatic. "The potential we have for speed, has got to be much greater than that of sailboats," he said.

"With the small increases in speed they are now getting, they have reached their limits, whereas we are going up by two to three knots at a time."

McKean and Daddo's course into the record books

has not been plain sailing, however. Last February the 150kg boat exploded in a mass of spray when a stay parted during an earlier record attempt at Sandy Point, Victoria.

At the time, Yellow Pages was speeding at well over 50 knots. "A hundred metres into the run, a wire attachment pulled out under the strain and the boat started to split up," McKean, 37, a merchant banker from Melbourne, said.

"The crew pod hit the water at high speed and we got chucked out and threw a couple of somersaults. The pod is designed to explode on impact and released me perfectly, but Tim [Daddo] had to clear the main beam and wire and caught some bruises."

The wing mast fell down on impact with the water, but the main structural parts stayed in one piece, and the team spent the Australian winter rebuilding her.

Before the crash, McKean and Daddo established new class B and C sailing records with a top speed of 44.654

knots — just 0.006 of a knot outside Bielak's mark. After swimming ashore following their ducking, McKean said: "The boat has sailed for just 18 minutes. Other teams have taken years and years to get where we are. I think it still has a lot of potential."

After waiting more than 60 days for the right conditions, patience finally paid off when the record was finally broken at Shallow Inlet, a windswept area of tidal salt-flats 180 kilometres south-east of Melbourne.

The record was set shortly after midday in an 18-20 knot breeze during the crew's first full run of the day, despite the crew pod not lifting clear of the water until they were a third of the way down the course.

During subsequent runs, the pod again bounced down on the surface several times and speeds of 43 and 42 knots were achieved until winds increased above 35 knots and forced the two to call it a day.

"I've waited a long time for this," McKean said after-

wards. "It's absolutely terrific, but we can go a lot faster. We still have not had a sweet run and there is plenty of promise in the boat."

Their speed attempts have been monitored by representatives of the World Sailing Speed Record Council, but their claim has to be ratified by the International Yacht Racing Union.

Sailing speed records have climbed significantly since the first official attempts were made in 1972. That year, Tim Coleman's proa, Crossbow, set a speed of 26.3 knots across Portland Harbour, a record that was pushed up to 31.1 knots by 1975.

A year later, Coleman returned to Portland with Crossbow II and over four years, raised the record to 36 knots, a benchmark that remained for two years until Pascal Maka, on a sailboat in 1986, eclipsed the large sailing machines with a speed of 38.86 knots.

This began a long run of boardsailing records, culminating with Bielak's last year.



Crewmen McKean, left, and Daddo, show their elation after the run

Endeavour opens up lead of 57 miles on Merit

By BARRY PICKTHALL

GRANT Dalton's maxi yacht, New Zealand Endeavour, led the Whitbread Round the World Race fleet across the equator yesterday, but with his crew counting 17 previous circumnavigations among them, there was little of the traditional celebrations that come with crossing "the line" for the first time.

On board Tokio, the Whitbread 60, skipper Chris Dickson, New Zealand's former America's Cup skipper, kept quiet about his own initiation, although he was thankful to have found his yacht back in the lead after initially losing ground to class rivals west of them.

"It's a great relief to have our plan work and to come out of the doldrums back in our original position," he said.

Endeavour, Tokio and Pierre Felhmann's Swiss maxi, Merit Cup, all crossed the equator within 25 miles of each other and now hold a significant lead over the rest of the fleet as they sail into the Southeast Trades with sheets eased at more than 11 knots.

Endeavour has extended her lead over Merit to 57 miles and Tokio holds a similar advantage over Javier de la Gandara's Spanish entry, Galicia 93. Dennis Conner's American yacht, Winston, is third.

Matt Humphries's British entry, Dolphin and Youth Challenge, which failed to gain any benefit from crossing through the doldrums well to the east of the fleet, has fallen about 300 miles behind the leaders, and the crew has the added problem of a faulty weather fax. Humphries said yesterday: "Mark Sheffield, our engineer, has been below deck for hours trying to spark some life into the machine. He has even tried to link the radio up but we are still unable to receive pictures."

The breakdown will leave the crew at a significant disadvantage, because without the weather pictures and maps, they are unable to plan strategy over the final 2,700 miles to Punta del Este.

LEADING POSITIONS (at 1400 GMT yesterday, with miles to Punta del Este): Endeavour (NZ), 2,375 miles; Tokio (NZ), 2,432 miles; Merit Cup (F), 2,487 miles; Galicia 93 (S), 2,543 miles; Winston (USA), 2,598 miles; Dolphin and Youth Challenge (GB), 2,653 miles; US Women's Challenge (USA), 2,702 miles; Broadford (GB), 2,705 miles; Herman Saftich (S), 2,710 miles; 10, Oceana Moscow Times (A), 2,715 miles.

Whitbread 60 class: 1, Tokio (NZ), 2,411 miles; 2, Galicia 93 (S), 2,487 miles; 3, Merit Cup (F), 2,487 miles; 4, Infirmary (S), 2,543 miles; 5, Yachting (F), 2,543 miles; 6, Yachting (F), 2,543 miles; 7, Yachting (F), 2,543 miles; 8, Yachting (F), 2,543 miles; 9, Yachting (F), 2,543 miles; 10, Yachting (F), 2,543 miles.

Results issued by British Telecom

Seles plans to defend Australian Open title

MONICA Seles plans to defend her title at the Australian Open tennis tournament in January, her first grand slam event since being stabbed at a tournament in Germany last April.

"All indications are that Monica Seles will defend her title, despite her long break due to the stabbing in Hamburg earlier this year," Geoff Pollard, the Tennis Australia president, told a news conference in Melbourne.

"I spoke to her manager during the week who told me that Monica had her sights very definitely on a comeback in time for the open," Pollard said. "She has a lot of computer points at stake and doesn't want to miss another grand slam."

Last week her agents confirmed that Seles, 19, would play in Dublin in December, making her first appearance since a spectator, Günter Parche, plunged a meat-trimming knife into her back when she was competing in the Hamburg Open.

Parche, 39, an unemployed lather operator from the east German town of Nordhausen, goes on trial in Hamburg today charged with causing Seles grievous bodily harm.

Seles, the former world No 1 who is chasing her fourth successive Australian open title, has slipped to fourth in the rankings during her six-month absence from the circuit. Steffi Graf has regained the top position.

Pollard said the men's and women's events at the open, from January 17 to 30, would each include 18 of the world's top 20 ranked players. Boris Becker, Michael Chang, Martina Navratilova and Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere will not be taking part.

Big fight draws 16 million viewers

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

THE return match between Nigel Benn and Chris Eubank was a big hit on television. According to early figures from ITV, just under 16 million viewers saw the two super-middleweights box a draw at Old Trafford on Saturday.

The audience, which saw the bout live, was the third biggest for ITV sport, after the bout between Frank Bruno and Joe Bugner at White Hart Lane in 1987, which was watched by 16.3 million, and the England v Republic of Ireland World Cup match in 1990, seen by 16 million.

Bob Burrows, head of ITV Sport, said: "We are absolutely delighted. Linford Christie and Carl Lewis had 12 million, and now this. It's a vindication of our investment in sport and a blow for terrestrial television, food for thought for the Lennax Lewis camp — Lewis-Bruno had 1.7 million viewers."

However, Sky television said the Lewis-Bruno bout had gone to 1.7 million homes, and including outside home viewing, the heavyweights had probably been seen by five to six million people.

Because of the wide interest in the Benn-Eubank match, it was shown again last night.



Duff: Leeds date

giving viewers another chance to make up their minds whether the judges were right in giving a draw.

The judges' scorecards, which were inadvertently not released on the night of the bout, were made public yesterday. They showed that the last six rounds pulled Benn up. Carol Castellano, of the United States, made it 6-0 in Benn's favour, Chuck Hassett, another American, gave it 4-2 to Benn and Harry Gibbs, of Britain, made it 3-3.

Benn was to make the mandatory defence of the WBC title against Henry Wharton, of York, in December. Wharton's manager, Mickey Duff, was hoping to win the purse bid and stage the bout in March at Elland Road, but Benn is insisting the bout be held in December.

Peter DeFreitas, Benn's personal manager, said yesterday: "Nigel wants to fight in

December because he is ready. Wharton's just had a fight, so he should be ready also. If he's not ready that's his problem. We won't wait till March. If Mickey Duff wants to fight in March, he must allow Nigel to make a voluntary defence in December. We want to get it on and make it a Christmas cracker. Wharton won't be able to stand up to Nigel's punches like Eubank. He'll go to sleep."

As Wharton has already had to step aside to allow Benn to meet Eubank, it is most unlikely that Duff will allow the champion to have another voluntary defence.

DeFreitas said he will be talking to the promoters, Don King, Barry Hearn and Frank Warren about a December date this week. "We have got American television," DeFreitas said. "I don't think Duff will be able to outbid three promoters."

Cole aims to make senior cap reality

ANDY Cole will attempt to prove today that he can be just as deadly in the international football arena as he is for Newcastle.

Cole, who has scored 26 goals in 23 Newcastle appearances, leads England's attack in the under-21 international against Holland in Utrecht, where he can stake his claim for a senior cap.

Lawrie McMenemy, the England Under-21 manager, said: "Andy is an outstanding prospect who is lucky to have Kevin Keegan and Terry McDermott looking after him at his club."

"He is handling success tremendously well and could come through the ranks to the senior side like Alan Shearer has."

England have written off their chances of qualifying for the under-21 finals, but for players like Cole this is the ideal opportunity to prove they can step up a grade.

He was considered not to have the right temperament at Arsenal but since his £1.7 million move from Bristol City to Newcastle has been a model professional.

"Andy's attitude and application are first-class," McMenemy said.

"He's on top form and has been no problem at all with us, although he's at a club where No 9s have been idolised down the years."

McMenemy has placed Trevor Sinclair, of Queens Park Rangers, on standby because Darren Anderson, of Tottenham Hotspur, faces a fitness test after suffering a groin strain.

TEAM: O. Watson (Barnsley), N. Ardley (Worcester), S. Minto (Glasgow), C. Sutton (Norwich), U. Eholuog (Aston Villa), A. Awford (Portsmouth), O. Anderson (Tottenham), or T. Sinclair (QPR), L. Clark (Newcastle), A. Cole (Newcastle), M. Shearer (Manchester City), G. Fittos (Manchester City).

Yamaha can offer Rainey new role

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

WAYNE Rainey, the triple world motorcycle champion who was paralysed by a fall in last month's Italian grand prix, will be able to come to terms with life in a wheelchair, and could even become a top team manager, according to his mentor, Kenny Roberts.

Roberts said yesterday that Rainey continued to follow the exploits of his Yamaha team from a hospital bed and can recall every detail of the crash that finished his racing career.

Rainey, who is being treated by specialists in Los Angeles, has apparently made a flying start to a rehabilitation programme that will run until Christmas.

"He's already ahead of what they figured he could do," Roberts, who is in daily contact with the Californian, said.

Roberts is also convinced

that the qualities which Rainey needed to become a world champion will see him through the ordeal of the coming months. "There's no question about it. The energy and self-discipline and drive and will to succeed will come out. If he can channel those things in the wheelchair like he's been able to do in racing, he'll breeze through all that stuff. And I think that he will."

Roberts clearly wants to keep his protégé in the field, should he decide to stay in the sport. "He's got a tremendous amount of knowledge that could be directed at the young riders we want to start working with," he said.

"I think that Wayne will want to come back, but in what capacity I don't know yet. We're just laying out options for him and when he's ready we'll talk. He'd be a great asset to any team, especially this one."

TV changes jeopardise tournaments

THE interests of American television networks may force a switch in date for the world swimming championships in Rome next summer that could devalue both that event and the Commonwealth Games (Craig Lord writes).

At a meeting in Rome tomorrow, officials from Fina, the sport's international governing body, and organisers of the world championships, will discuss a proposal by News America, which owns the publicity rights for the championships, to move the event from September 1 to 11 to August 25 to September 4 to better serve the interests of American television.

Such a move would mean that leading swimming nations, such as Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Britain, would face a choice of whether to attend the world championships or the Commonwealth Games, which end on August 26. While Canadians are angry that they long ago made the Commonwealth event, which they will host in August, their priority, and plan to use that

occasion as trials for the world championships, the Australians are also far from happy.

Don Talbot, head of Australian Swimming, said that his board would meet to discuss the matter, though he leaned towards the Commonwealth Games at this point. He said it was unjust of Fina to even be considering such a dramatic change to the calendar at this late stage.

Swimming is among the five most popular sports in Australia and is backed by massive state funding. At Commonwealth level, swimmers have outwitted the success of Australians in other sports: at Auckland in 1990, England would have topped the overall medals table had it not been for the swimming events.

English swimmers, who form virtually the entire British team, would also be particularly hard hit by any shift of dates.

Gunnar Verner, honorary secretary of Fina, said from Stockholm: "This pro-

posal was on the table at a meeting in Taipei last week. I doubt we will make a final decision this week, the matter is complex."

The proposal of News America, which paid more than £10 million for three world championships, 1991, '94 and '98, reflects the American sports agenda: television coverage of baseball and American football is greater in September than it is in August.

A decision in favour of a switch to August for the Rome event will anger the non-American swimming community.

Cornel Marculescu, the director of Fina, said: "There are positive and negative aspects. The decision will depend on what we really want from our sport. It's a question of image. This sport is difficult to sell sometimes and we need television. To have American TV is very important."

He confirmed that News America wished to put the Rome event back one week to increase its selling chances to the United States and Asia.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 48

FAKTLER

(a) A method of training for middle- and long-distance running, in which the athlete runs over country, mixing fast with slow work, from the Swedish *fart* speed + *lek* play. "He was out training... and was using the Farklek or run-as-you-please Times, 1958."

MOROSIS

(a) Imbecility, from the Greek *mōros* foolish: "Why Hyacinth, the way you have done up your lounge is just wonderful! It has this quality of what the Turks call 'mōrosis'. I think. No one but you could have done it."

PECULATE

(a) To pilfer or embezzle, from the participle stem of the Latin *peculāri* to embezzle, from *peculū* private property, originally cattle, from *pecus* cattle, money: "The people accused them of having peculated the public money."

UMBO

(b) The knob on a toadstool cap, a shield or a seashell. From the Latin *umbo* a shield-boss or knob, of the French *ombon* "Agaricus rufus... Pileus 3 inches broad, plane-convex, slightly or strongly umbonate with a depression round the umbo as the plant advances."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
The rook sacrifice 1 Rxf7 is decisive. e.g. 1... Kxf7 2 Qe5+ Kf8 3 Qe4+ mating.

سنة من العمل

Doubts over guarantees cited among reasons to halt Levy Board

Battle lines drawn over Epsom sale

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

A LAST-DITCH attempt to prevent the immediate sale of Epsom, Kempton Park and Sandown Park will be made today by the two men in charge of the racecourses.

Sir Evelyn de Rothschild and Sir John Sparrow, chairman and managing-director respectively of United Racecourses (UR), are to have a personal hearing before the Horserace Betting Levy Board this morning, when they will argue their case.

Following intense behind the scenes discussions, they are expected to oppose the proposed sale on two grounds: the timing of the sale and doubts about the effectiveness of guarantees ensuring continued racing at the courses.

Although any sale price would have to take into account loans and debts of around £10 million, various estimates suggest the net return to the Levy Board would be in the region of £15 million.

The Levy Board bought Epsom and Sandown for £15 million in 1969 and paid £800,000 for Kempton a year later to protect the course from possible development following the closure of Hurst Park. Metropolitan and Country Racecourse Management, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Levy Board, is the holding company of UR, which runs the three courses.

In 1991, Sir John Sparrow, the chairman of the Levy Board, told the Commons home affairs committee that he was attracted to the idea of selling the courses provided there was adequate protection to ensure continued racing.

and it was done at a "commercially sensible time."

With the economy on the upturn, the Levy Board believes the time is right to test the market. However, a sharp difference in views between the Levy Board and the UR board, which has been reflected in some terse exchanges between Sir John and Sir Evelyn, has led to Sir Evelyn and Sir John being invited to attend today's meeting.

Sir Evelyn, who is chairman of the merchant bankers, N M Rothschild and Sons, will not doubt use his city experience to explain why now is not the time to sell UR. The argument that any guarantee given by a purchaser about continued racing at the three tracks could be circumvented in the future has not previously been raised. UR believes no sufficient watertight guarantee exists and it could provide a bonanza for lawyers in the years ahead.

The problem would not be applicable if the three courses are acquired by Racecourse Holdings Trust (RHT). The Jockey Club-owned RHT already controls nine courses, including Aintree, Cheltenham, Newmarket and Haydock Park, and is favourite in the race for UR.

The opposition of the UR board to an immediate sale would appear to reflect a shift in attitude. In August, Neligan was enthusiastic about the idea of a management buy-out, if the price was right. "We have several figures who would like to back us," he said at the time. "We think we can do it as well as anyone else."



Sir John Sparrow, left, and Sir Evelyn de Rothschild are at odds over the intended sale of three racecourses

Although Sir Evelyn and Neligan can expect a courteous hearing, the chances of their views prevailing look slim, for two reasons. First, the Levy Board can test the market without having to sell. Second, the image and standing of UR is not what it was within racing's corridors of power, stemming largely from the problems encountered

with the Derby at Epsom. With large amounts of capital and personal reputations at stake, the future of UR is turning into one of racing's most heated issues. If, as expected, the Levy Board announces today the decision to go ahead with the sale, the arguments will continue. Accusations of establishment manipulation already



surround the interest of RHT in acquiring three more courses. The criticism has prompted Bill Gredley to National Hunt racing in January 1992 and for the Flat earlier this year. The stewards intend to change the rule after consulting with the British Horseracing Board, David Pipe, the Jockey Club spokesman, said: "It is causing confusion."

Swinburn ponders Champion ride

BY RICHARD EVANS

WALTER Swinburn will today provide a key pointer towards unravelling a fascinating Dubai Champion Stakes at Newmarket on Saturday by deciding whether to ride Ezzoud or Hatof.

The Newmarket-based jockey is at his best in championship races but faces a difficult choice between the two Makdum Al-Makdum-owned horses, whom he has partnered in their most notable triumphs this season.

Ezzoud, who beat Sahrehill when winning the International Stakes at York, was one of the worst casualties of the scorching which occurred in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp and the run is best ignored.

Hatof, who beat the Arc winner, Urban Sea, in a group two race at Woodbine, in Canada, last autumn, looked to have returned to top form when taking La Coupe de Maisons-Laffitte in impressive style two weeks ago, following a three-month lay-off.

The 1992 1,000 Guineas winner would ideally prefer

good or softer ground and the likely going at Newmarket will be an important factor in Swinburn's deliberations, although it will be a surprise if he does not plump for Crispette Head's filly.

"I want to talk to all parties and see what the ground is like. The more cut there is, the better it is for Hatof. Ezzoud goes on any ground," the jockey said yesterday.

"In the Arc, Ezzoud overcame a bad draw and we got a decent position going on the hill but George Duffield [on User Friendly] got badly interfered with and it was a knock-out effect. It was taken right to the back of the field and Ezzoud got a cut. I thought he had gone lame for a while. He was seriously interfered with. Hatof won well last time, but I don't know what she beat. She certainly looked very well."

Ladbrokes bet 7-4 Muhattarum, 3-1 Hatof, 6-1 Ezzoud and Knifedoff, 8-1 Dernier Empereur, 10-1 Alforda, 14-1 Dancing Bloom, 20-1 Tenby, 25-1 Revelation, 33-1 Bobzoo, 66-1 others.

BIG-RACE ACCEPTORS

3.40 DUBAI CHAMPION STAKES

(Group 1, £175,000; added; 1m 2f (12 declared))	
11222 ALFARA (Crispette Head) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
11222 BODAZO (W. H. 4-8-8)	A. Maguire
11222 CROCODILE (Crispette Head) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
11222 DUBAI CHAMPION (Crispette Head) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
11222 EZZOUD (Makdum Al-Makdum) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
11222 HATOF (Makdum Al-Makdum) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
11222 KATIF (Makdum Al-Makdum) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
11222 LADROBES (Makdum Al-Makdum) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
11222 MUDGILL (Makdum Al-Makdum) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
11222 NEMO (Makdum Al-Makdum) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
11222 PETER (Makdum Al-Makdum) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
11222 RICHIE (Makdum Al-Makdum) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
11222 SHERIFF (Makdum Al-Makdum) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
11222 TONY (Makdum Al-Makdum) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
11222 WILSON (Makdum Al-Makdum) 5-11-10	A. Maguire

CHEPSTOW

1.40 Special Dawn 3.10 One On One
2.10 Dill 3.40 Prince Rooney
2.40 Ballasacret 4.10 Ahjlay
4.40 GOODY FOUR SHOES (nap)

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.10 ONE ON ONE (nap).

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.40 DUPLICITY.

GOING: HEAVY DRAW: 5F 16YD-1M 14YD, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

1.40 FORTMILL HANDICAP (£2,873; 1m 4f 23yds) (19 runners)

1	212210	STANAGRA (M. 5-11-10)	A. Maguire
2	11222	BODAZO (W. H. 4-8-8)	A. Maguire
3	11222	CROCODILE (Crispette Head) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
4	11222	DUBAI CHAMPION (Crispette Head) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
5	11222	EZZOUD (Makdum Al-Makdum) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
6	11222	HATOF (Makdum Al-Makdum) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
7	11222	KATIF (Makdum Al-Makdum) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
8	11222	LADROBES (Makdum Al-Makdum) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
9	11222	MUDGILL (Makdum Al-Makdum) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
10	11222	NEMO (Makdum Al-Makdum) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
11	11222	PETER (Makdum Al-Makdum) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
12	11222	RICHIE (Makdum Al-Makdum) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
13	11222	SHERIFF (Makdum Al-Makdum) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
14	11222	TONY (Makdum Al-Makdum) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
15	11222	WILSON (Makdum Al-Makdum) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
16	11222	ALFARA (Crispette Head) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
17	11222	BODAZO (W. H. 4-8-8)	A. Maguire
18	11222	CROCODILE (Crispette Head) 5-11-10	A. Maguire
19	11222	DUBAI CHAMPION (Crispette Head) 5-11-10	A. Maguire

BETTING: 5-11-10; 2-10-10; 3-10-10; 4-10-10; 5-10-10; 6-10-10; 7-10-10; 8-10-10; 9-10-10; 10-10-10; 11-10-10; 12-10-10; 13-10-10; 14-10-10; 15-10-10; 16-10-10; 17-10-10; 18-10-10; 19-10-10.

1992: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

GOODY'S best recent effort came when 31st of 32 in a handicap at Goodwood (11.11.92) when he was ridden by J. J. Smeaton. He was 11th of 12 in a 13-runner handicap at Farnham (11.11.92).

CRIMINALITY about 71st of 111 in a General Stakes at Newmarket (11.11.92) when he was ridden by J. J. Smeaton. He was 11th of 12 in a 13-runner handicap at Farnham (11.11.92).

ALFARA's best recent effort came when 11th of 12 in a 13-runner handicap at Farnham (11.11.92).

BROUGHTON'S TANGU 3rd of 19 in a Western

BETTING: 5-11-10; 2-10-10; 3-10-10; 4-10-10; 5-10-10; 6-10-10; 7-10-10; 8-10-10; 9-10-10; 10-10-10; 11-10-10; 12-10-10; 13-10-10; 14-10-10; 15-10-10; 16-10-10; 17-10-10; 18-10-10; 19-10-10.

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BETTING: 5-11-10; 2-10-10; 3-10-10; 4-10-10; 5-10-10; 6-10-10; 7-10-10; 8-10-10; 9-10-10; 10-10-10; 11-10-10; 12-10-10; 13-10-10; 14-10-10; 15-10-10; 16-10-10; 17-10-10; 18-10-10; 19-10-10.

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1992: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

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Zambia must keep faith with players

■ As Zambians blame the referee for their World Cup defeat at the hands of Morocco, their coach searches for the missing ingredient in their game



The irony is — something the FA has not comprehended — that when there are few, if any, Bobby Charltons available, the team is more dependent than ever on what Jack contributed to the house that Sir Alf Ramsey built. I suspect that Taylor has not understood this either.

team. If they don't keep faith with players and coaches, they will go backwards."

Certainly, on the evidence of the last few months, Zambia has developed the nucleus of a team that could compete at the highest level. Young players of the calibre of Gibby M'Basela, a strong, inventive midfielder

"He's been my luckiest goalkeeper," Aldridge said with a laugh, "so it would be nice to play and make him a bad day for him."

Brown believes that the Scots have better midfield players than Italy and he thinks they will prove it here tomorrow night. If so, then Scotland may find they have extinguished more than their own hopes of qualifying for

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- 6.30 **Jayce and the Wheeled Warriors.** Jayce and Gilan discover an old Lightning Lance (78915)
- 7.00 **The Big Breakfast.** Introduced by Cms Evans and Gabby Ross (21909)
- 9.00 **You Bet Your Life.** Game show with Bill Cosby (1)
- 9.30 **Schools' Europe!** 040669091 9.45 **Stop, Look, Listen** (4822270) 10.02 **The Garmen Program** (7256336) 10.23 **Place and People** (5056912) 10.44 **Good Health** (4522763) 11.00 **Science in Focus** (1772812) 11.22 **Stage One** (4832637) 11.40 **How We Used to Live** (5227367)
- 12.00 **Time-lapse Photography.** Jack Carey uses time-lapse photography and micrography to show the magic of plant growth (13831)
- 12.30 **Seaside Strain.** With guest Paul Tiams (16367)
- 1.30 **Alfred J. Kwak.** Animated adventures (1) (38635)
- 2.00 **Fine.** The Sheep of Whitland 1941, b/w, Gwyneth Jones. Film-runs Jack Carey, a well-known professor trying to rescue an economics expert kidnapped by Nazi agents. With Will Hay and John Mills. Directed by Hay and Basil Deardon (99-48522)
- 3.20 **Photography.** Gerald Frydman's animated history of the origins of photography (1905522)
- 3.30 **The Times World Chess Championship.** Move action from Nigel Short and Garry Kasparov (58331)
- 4.30 **Fifteen to One.** General knowledge quiz. (Teletext) (5) (744)
- 5.00 **The Oprah Winfrey Show.** A programme on the subject of liberation leader, Gloria Steinem. (Teletext) (5) (7093744)
- 5.50 **Laurel and Hardy.** Animated adventures (905859)
- 6.00 **Mork and Minky.** Mork finds a weird remedy for his allergy (1) (909)
- 6.30 **Police.** Margaret and Jackie decide to visit their father's girlfriend (1). (Teletext) (5) (589)
- 7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow (Teletext) Weather (637034)
- 7.50 **Comment.** Pro and anti-road campaigners argue for and against the proposed Birmingham Northern Ring (2483)
- 8.00 **The Times World Chess Championship.** The games continue (4928)
- 8.30 **Check Out 93.** Mike Embley presents a report arguing that different safety procedures for luggage on board planes could have prevented the Lockerbie disaster (5) (676)
- 9.00 **Without Walls:** Germaine Greer on Youthism (237270); 9.45 **Andrew Birkin** on Peter Pan (237270)

Webb, Linney, D'Amico in gay mood (10.00pm)

10.00 **Armistead Maupin's Tales of the City.** Michael's (Marcus D'Amico) parents are shocked by the sights they see on Halloween and Dede Day's pregnancy is confirmed. Glorified soap starring Olympia Dukakis, Donald Moffat, Chloë Web and Laura Linney. (Teletext) (s) (3154)

11.00 **It's Not What You Think It Is.** Taboo. Black men discuss their reaction to white women's assumptions about their sexual prowess. Presented by Donu Kogbara. (s) (291090)

12.05 **The Times World Chess Championship.** Analysis of today's play. (3975991)

12.35 **Kenner Carlin's Jazz musician performs with Joe Kennedy.** Ron Vin. (s) 4812600 no phono. Gen

Duvivier on bass and Ronnie Bedford on drums (r) (s) (1202023). Ends at 1.45

SATELLITE

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12.00 Fame (82386)
x (61676) 3.00 The Ca

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5.00 Sports: Crazy Country music from midnight to 4pm

England manager looks towards his injured captain for inspiration

Taylor plays waiting game with Pearce

FROM ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN ROTTERDAM

ENGLAND landed here yesterday evening with hardened resolve that, come what may in the Feyenoord Stadium, the decisive World Cup group two qualifier tomorrow will not be lost if spirit has anything to do with it.

On journeys such as this, where either England or Holland can almost certainly qualify by winning, the psychologists talk of the flight or fight response. England's history, in football as much as war, is Churchillian: Graham Taylor, sporting a new burgundy waistcoat, is determinedly putting on a bullish attitude. He says, and we had better hope that he and his players mean it, that England

have not come looking for a draw, but have come with absolute victory in mind. And yet at Taylor's side, his captain Stuart Pearce, cannot yet say whether he, the old marauder of the left flank, has any part to play. Pearce is the final injury victim limping into Rotterdam. He trained for the first time yesterday, and his hamstring behind the right thigh is still a substantial doubt. Taylor says he is prepared to give his man another 24 hours, until lunchtime today, such is his belief in the qualities of leadership and force that Pearce represents.

However, once Pearce himself revealed that the problem that has kept him out of football, both matches and training for three weeks, is a hamstring and not as previously reported a soft tissue

■ With nothing but victory in mind, Graham Taylor and his England squad are in a bullish mood as they prepare for the crucial World Cup match against Holland

thigh muscle strain, it was appreciated what a fearful gamble fielding the skipper might be.

Hamstrings are the bane of any athlete. Generally, the medical staff cannot predict how much time they take to heal, and possibly not even a player with the experience of Pearce, aged 31, and hoping to play his 55th international, can be sure that once the tissue has gone it will not go again. It is like Nigel Kennedy beginning a concert with a frayed violin string.

Pearce looked his usual

ashen self yesterday. But little can be read into that, he is a captain who articulates only through action. "I want to play very desperately," he said yesterday. "So do 20 other boys in the squad. I think I know myself well enough to know whether I will or will not be fit. I'll be honest with the manager, he has been very good to me."

Indeed, Taylor has been more than that, recalling him from the depths of previous injury and elbowing aside David Platt, the inspiration of England on so many other

nights, who has done absolutely nothing to be deprived of the captain's armband. Taylor says that the decision on Pearce will be the responsibility of both player and manager. "The fact that we are waiting until the day before a vital game, shows how important he is as a captain and leader," stressed Taylor.

Thankfully, for England, Taylor is growing more certain that the doubts about the fitness of Ian Wright are subsiding. The Arsenal striker trained yesterday for the second full day without adverse reaction, now his likely selection alongside Alan Shearer gives England both the pace and the power that was sadly taken from them by the injury — another hamstring — to Les Ferdinand.

Taylor emphasised that he is not dismayed by Wright's record of only one goal in 14 internationals. "If you're contributing to the game, son," the manager told him, "then I'm satisfied." Wright, an anxious and unpredictable character, is less so. He counts his contribution in the number of times he hits the back of the net.

However, Taylor's mood is buoyant. Some part of that is contrived, the leader of men showing his troops that he at least believes they can come to Rotterdam and out-score the home team. But there is also in Taylor a discernible relief, following the 3-0 victory over Poland last month. It demonstrated that he had regained a measure of authority in his motivational quality and team selection. And now the manager

is also visibly uplifted by the return of Shearer.

That is amazing testimony to the 23-year-old Blackburn player. For Shearer, having lived with doubt and some pain for the best part of a year, knows that the onus tomorrow will be on him, knows it and relishes it just as much as he seems to relish the probably bruising physical confrontation that he faces against the colossal, John De Wolf.

No journey this for the timid. But there is no sign of England creeping into the port with anything less than a determination to run where it hurts and to carry the contest to the enemy.

Hooligans deported, page 5
David Miller, page 46
Irish close in, page 46

Barnes has to bow to knee injury

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

STUART Barnes, the Bath and England stand-off half, will miss the opening round of rugby union's CIS divisional championship on Saturday. Barnes, who was to have captained the South and South West, who open the defence of the title against the Midlands at Bath, has been forced to withdraw because of a knee injury.

The divisional selectors met last night to confirm their XV, which will not be at full strength in any case. Jeremy Guscott is unavailable; another Bath player, the prop, Jeremy Mallett, broke a hand in a second-team match last Saturday, and Simon Morris, the Gloucester centre, has yet to recover fitness. The heavy league commitments of the past five weeks may remove others from contention.

Barnes, who is aware that his England place is under constant pressure from Rob Andrew (who was chosen ahead of him for the British Isles in the international series against New Zealand during the summer) is anxious to ensure full fitness when the South West play the All Blacks at Redruth on October 30.

He played for Bath in their victory over Wasps last Saturday when not fully fit. "It was a big game for the club and the last of five league games on the trot, but the knee needs a rest now, otherwise fluid tends to build up whenever it gets a bang," Barnes, 30, said. Clearly a good display at Redruth will help Barnes towards a place in the England team at Twickenham on November 27, though Andrew is due first shot at the touring party when London entertain them — also at Twickenham — on October 23. London's team should be confirmed in training tonight when injuries to leading candidates such as Alan Buzza and Chris Oti have been assessed.

Ian Bates, the Leicester centre, has been added to the Midlands team to play the South West. He takes the place originally given to Mike Fielden, who has elected for the North, and will join his club colleague Stuart Potter in a side already containing eight Leicester players.

Carling optimistic, page 44



Hill hangs out the welcome boards for Senna during a press conference at the Williams team's Didcot base yesterday, as the Brazilian agrees a two-year contract with Williams, right

Senna signs two-year contract for Williams

BY OLIVER HOLT

HIS voice crackling happily over an open telephone line from Brazil, Ayrton Senna yesterday shared motor racing's worst-kept secret with the world and embraced the prospect of driving alongside Damon Hill for the Williams Formula One team next year and adding to his impressive array of three drivers' world championships.

"This is a great dream come true for me," Senna said. He was given his first opportunity in a Formula One car by Frank Williams more than a decade ago. "Since that first test at Donington, we have talked and we have negotiated over the years and now finally we have come together. But winning the championship will be tough. It is so long since my last one, I have almost forgotten what it feels like."

Last year, the Brazilian, who has

won 39 races in his 156 grands prix, was so desperate to secure a seat with the Didcot-based team that he offered to drive for them for free. Alain Prost, his arch-rival, got the job instead and although he won three races in the early part of the year, Senna has had a miserable 1993 in an inferior McLaren.

Now, in the wake of Prost's decision to retire at the end of this season, Senna, the driver who many believe is the best to have sat in a Formula One car, has the vehicle to fit his talents and Williams admitted Hill would have to push "very, very hard" to match him.

"But Damon has been full of surprises this year," Williams said. "I would not rule it out that he may catch him and even beat him." Williams also hinted there would be no repeat of this year's situation when Hill was forced on occasions to play second fiddle to Prost. "Both

drivers will be racing for the championship," he said. "But I think Ferrari and Benetton will be up there with us and that it will be much tougher than this year."

Having lost Nigel Mansell and Prost at the end of championship-winning seasons, Williams, who admitted it was one of his greatest ambitions to have Senna in his team, appears to have forestalled a similar situation occurring with the Brazilian by signing him on a two-year contract. The Williams team owner took up an existing one-year option he held on Hill and said it was "a foregone conclusion" that the Londoner, 33, still in his first full grand prix season, would drive for the team in 1995.

Although Senna, also 33, who will end his five-year association with McLaren after November's Australian grand prix, did not appear at the press conference, which was held at

the Williams factory, his brooding presence hovered over proceedings and dominated Hill's thoughts.

The Brazilian has a reputation for trying to crush team-mates in an attempt to get teams working solely for him and has already taken Hill to task for what he considered an ill-judged piece of driving at the San Marino grand prix in April. "I think that was just his way of saying 'bello,'" Hill, who won three races in succession in the latter half of this season, said. "I am not easily demoralised or crushed, so I think I am well prepared for that. I know that Senna has a reputation for getting what he wants out of the team and that could be to my detriment. But I do not want to prejudge him."

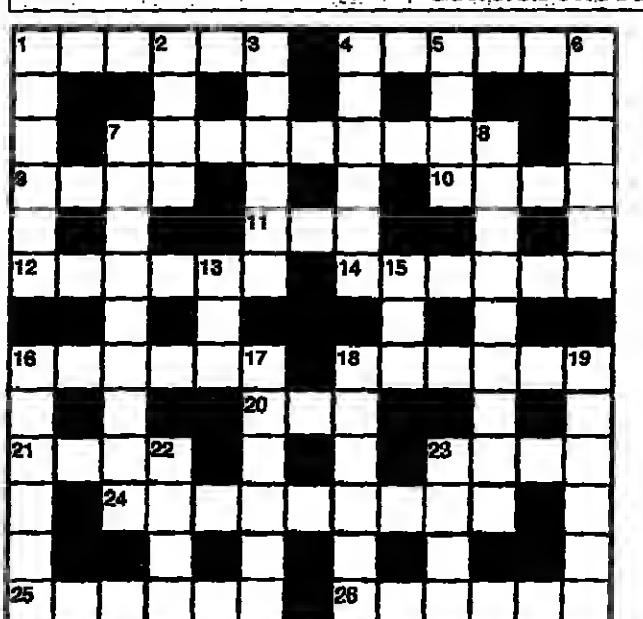
"I believe I can win the world championship next year. I am not saying that I think I am better than Ayrton because after Alain's retire-

ment, he will certainly be the most accomplished driver left in Formula One next season. He's only about six months older than me but he has already won three world championships and he could go on to be the greatest driver of all time."

Before Senna's voice faded away and he returned to his own press conference in São Paulo, he found time to praise Hill. "He's a very different driver to when he started the season," he said. "He has won races, he has led races, I think he will be very competitive from the beginning of next season." But when somebody asked him whether he would miss Prost next year, you could almost see him smile. "The line has suddenly gone very bad," he said.

□ Mika Hakkinen, of Finland, will be the leading driver for the new Formula One pairing of McLaren and Peugeot.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3223



ACROSS

- 1 Former Nyasaland (6)
- 4 Palermo island (6)
- 7 Cheap drink period (5,4)
- 9 Weary with sweetness (4)
- 10 Female servant (4)
- 11 Sticky substance (3)
- 12 Skull circle borer (6)
- 14 Toil (6)
- 16 Brief storm (6)
- 18 Bray (6)
- 20 Chop (3)
- 21 Still (4)
- 23 Twirl (4)
- 24 Three pint glass (4,2,3)
- 25 Concurrently with (6)
- 26 Steering vane (6)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3222

- ACROSS: 2 Airy 4 Shah 7 Along 9 Eavesdrop 10 Path 11 Surge 12 Unapt 13 Rig up 15 Halve 17 Servo 18 Thick 20 Poor 21 Toughness 23 Pally 24 Else 25 Many
- DOWN: 1 Softball 2 Age 3 Revert 5 Hard 6 Hip hip hooray 7 Amphitheatre 8 Asterisk 11 Stretchy 14 Gargoyles 16 Cinema 19 Fuss 22 Spy

DOWN

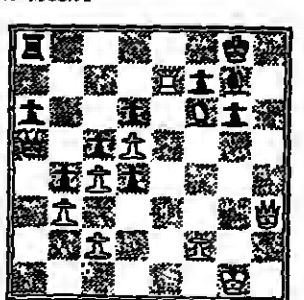
- 1 Oman capital (6)
- 2 Not present (4)
- 3 Attack as false (6)
- 4 Porpoises group (6)
- 5 Pal (4)
- 6 Over there (6)
- 7 It is hoped (9)
- 8 Promising indication (3,2,4)
- 13 Totality (3)
- 15 Yes (3)
- 16 Duellist's aide (6)
- 17 Small docile canine (6)
- 18 Young cow (6)
- 19 Cold period (6)
- 22 Barnako stair (4)
- 23 Sleigh (4)

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is a variation from the game Kasparov Short, Times World Championship, game 1. White has penetrated through to the seventh rank with his rook. Can you see how he can now break through to the black king?

Today sees the 16th game of the Kasparov - Short match at the Savoy Theatre. For tickets, from £20, ring First Call on 071 497 9977.



Solution, page 42
Championship Chess, page 9

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

FARTLEK

- a. Frivolous female show-off
- b. Muddy, thick or turbid
- c. Runners' training method

MOROSITY

- a. Imbecility
- b. Morbid dread of women
- c. Process of cognition

PECULATE

- a. To deck out
- b. To cut off abruptly
- c. To pilfer or embezzle

UMBO

- a. Outlet to a confined space
- b. The knob of a roadstool cap
- c. A present given to a guest

Answers on page 42

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: The Times & Sunday Times Crosswords on computer for all IBM PCs and Acorn Computers systems and featuring the NEW IBM PC VGA version with super enhanced graphics. For a limited period £10.70 each. The Times Crosswords - Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 14, 15 & 16 (84p). The Times Concise Crosswords - 3 & 4. The Sunday Times Crosswords - Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 10 & 11 (84p). The Sunday Times Concise Crosswords - 1 & 2. Prices inc p&hp (UK). Cheques to Alcon Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Return delivery. Tel 081-852 4575 (24 hrs). No credit cards.

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TIM SEBASTIAN

Economies polluted by dirty money

Global corruption, page 15



A DODDLE?

Julia Llewellyn Smith on the easiest jobs

The good working life, page 18



DAVID MILLER

An England team or a national lottery?

Football, page 48

30p
SAVE 15p

THE TIMES

No. 64,773

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 13 1993

Woolf warns of more riots

Crime reform irresponsible says law lord

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

ONE OF Britain's most senior judges last night launched a devastating onslaught on the government's new "tough on crime" initiative, saying it was shortsighted and irresponsible and would merely fill the prisons, bringing the risk of more riots.

Instead, Lord Woolf launched his own radical agenda for tackling the crime wave, including legalising some drugs, fining people for failing to protect their property and introducing weekend jails.

Lord Woolf, whose report on the Strangeways riot was hailed as a milestone in penal policy, insisted that tougher

■ Lord Woolf has raised the temperature of the law and order debate with a radical agenda and attack on the government's criminal justice policy

sentences were not the answer to Britain's law and order problems and he issued a veiled appeal to judges to cut sentences. Overcrowding was the most corrosive influence on the system and cramming more and more people into jails would cause instability and rioting, he said.

Lord Woolf's speech to judges, police, prison officers and churchmen at the New Assembly of Churches in London came a week after Michael Howard told the Conservative party conference of his proposals for combating crime. The home secretary's 27-point package included building six new jails, setting up secure institutions for persistent child offenders, imposing more stringent bail restrictions and removing defendants' right to silence.

But last night Lord Woolf cautioned against squandering resources on short-term palliatives and window dressing — which he said would make matters worse. "Statements are being made that having tried the soft option and that having failed, now is the time to get tough on crime. Such talk is short-sighted and irresponsible," he said. "The easy option which has a miserable record of failure is to send more and more people to prison, regardless of the consequences, including the shocking waste of resources which could be spent elsewhere."

"The difficult option is to try to identify the underlying causes of criminal conduct and then set about tackling those causes." He then put forward his own suggestions: □ Legalising some drugs in controlled circumstances so that addicts would no longer need to commit crime to feed their addiction; □ Fining people if they did not take steps to protect their property in the same way as people are fined for not protecting themselves by wearing seatbelts; □ Weekend prisons so that people could keep their jobs during the week and serve their sentences at weekends.

Lord Woolf also effectively appealed to judges not to jail too many offenders. "I appreciate that in the present climate it would be difficult to send out signals that what is required is lower sentences," he said. But judges had a responsibility to keep abreast of what was happening elsewhere, such as in Germany, where sentences had been cut without any apparent effect on law and order.

The proposed new prisons would cost hundreds of millions to build and more than £66 million a year to run, yet the system would still be overcrowded, Lord Woolf continued. Instead, the money should be spent on crime prevention and community punishments severe enough to counter the public perception that they were a soft alternative to jail.

Mr Howard defended his prison-building policy last night, however, saying: "If the courts decide that the right sentence is imprisonment, then they ought to be able to sentence to imprisonment and it is the government's job to make sure prison space is available. Where people do commit serious offences then they have to be put out of the way so that they cannot terrorise communities."

Tony Blair, the shadow home secretary, said that Lord Woolf's speech provided a devastating case for the government to answer. The measures announced by Mr Howard would not work because they dealt only with the problems of the criminal justice system and not with other parts of the strategy to fight crime.

Mr Howard's proposals also came under attack from the Association of Chief Officers of Probation, which said they would increase the numbers of young offenders in custody "without necessarily providing additional safety to communities".

John Harding, chief probation officer for inner London, said: "Sending young offenders to prison for longer periods of time may give some communities a brief respite, but the likelihood is that time inside will not have confronted them with the consequences of their behaviour and the effect on their victims."

Man in the news, page 2
Simon Jenkins, page 20

Outrage over Bonn's spy link with Iran

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN and America have expressed outrage that the most senior intelligence official in Germany held secret meetings last week with the Iranian responsible for his country's intelligence and possibly also terrorism activities.

The meetings in Germany took place only days before the attempted assassination of Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses*, and was seen yesterday in London as a clear breach of the undertaking by all European Community countries at the Edinburgh summit not to improve relations with Iran until the death threat against Mr Rushdie had been lifted.

After last week's meeting, the senior Iranian official involved disclosed that Tehran

had already enjoyed two years of "useful co-operation" with Germany.

British officials yesterday hinted that Peter Harman, the German ambassador, may be summoned to the Foreign Office to explain the meeting. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, is understood to be so angry that he may telephone Klaus Kinkel, his German opposite number, to demand an explanation.

The meeting was between Bernd Schmidbauer, the co-ordinator of all Germany's intelligence services who reports directly to Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, Konrad Porzner, head of the BND counter-intelligence service.

Continued on page 2, col 3
Hand of Tehran, page 16

Exports to Iraq were wrong, says Waldegrave

By MICHAEL DYNES
WHITEHALL
CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN was wrong to approve exports of machine tools to Iraq, William Waldegrave, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, admitted for the first time yesterday.

The mistake was due to the failure of Whitehall officials to pass on vital intelligence about Saddam Hussein's arms procurement network, Mr Waldegrave told Lord Justice Sack's enquiry into the arms to Iraq affair.

Responding to intelligence reports read out during the hearing which stated that machine tools manufactured by Matrix Churchill were being used to develop



Waldegrave: blamed Whitehall officials

Iraq's conventional, ballistic missile and nuclear weapons capability, Mr Waldegrave said: "I think we should have seen more of this stuff."

The reports showed that Iraq was negotiating with 15 countries, including Britain, to obtain components for ballistic missiles, in breach of the government's own arms export guidelines and Britain's international commitments restricting the proliferation of missile technology.

A second intelligence report, compiled by GCHQ, the government's secret listening post, showed that a British company was supplying Iraq with machine tools to manufacture conventional weapons and missile components via

Continued on page 2, col 1

Maastricht clears final hurdle

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

THE European Community was on course yesterday for closer integration after the German constitutional court allowed Bonn to ratify the Maastricht Treaty. But the court's endorsement was hedged by a number of conditions and warnings to the Bonn government which may dampen its zeal for unity.

Germany is the last of the 12 Community members to ratify the treaty which will now,

according to Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, come into force on schedule on November 1. Uncertainty over the German court's verdict has virtually paralysed the Community for the past few months.

Now Germany, together with France, hopes to show that neither Maastricht nor the vision of a single Europe is entirely moribund. Herr Kohl, who yesterday emphasised the need to develop a common foreign and security policy in Europe, will today make a speech before the French sen-

ate, underlining his commitment to the bruised partnership with Paris.

But even as German officials were busily preparing for this month's European summit — which will trumpet the ratification of Maastricht and set a new Community agenda — the German Euro-sceptics were reading with satisfaction the small print of the 85-page judgment. The court's qualifications include:

□ A right of review to ensure that European integration continues to respect German

constitutional principles.

□ The Bonn government should expand democratic powers within the Community and especially the European parliament.

□ There was nothing automatic about Germany's membership of a European currency union.

The ruling thus left both the government and its critics feeling like victors.

Speed limits, page 14
George Brock, page 20
Leading article, page 21

South battens the hatches as rain refuses to relent

By BILL FROST

ANY lingering hopes of an Indian summer were dashed yesterday as rain brought flooding to much of Britain and forecasters predicted the wettest October on record.

The National Rivers Authority posted severe flood warnings and the National Farmers Union said it feared that crops might be spoilt as storms lashed southern England. Eastern Scotland, Wales and the Midlands also recorded rainfall much heavier than average.

A man aged 45 drowned after an accident in heavy rain at Felstead, Essex, early yesterday. Police said that his car left the road, overturned, and landed upside down in a flooded ditch. He was found submerged in two feet of water beneath the vehicle.

The rivers authority issued flood warnings in six areas of Sussex and Kent. Villages and roads were cut off in East Sussex and Lincolnshire and the railway line was blocked between Exeter and Barnstaple in Devon. Police advised motorists to avoid travelling in the northeast part of Suffolk.

A waterlogged chinchilla was put in a police cell to dry

out after being found abandoned in its cage on a street in Shirley, Southampton.

The South has recorded 3.5in of rain since October 1, almost double the average for the month. Forecasters said that more rain could be expected.



Forecast, page 24

Semtex seized in London

POLICE found an explosives and arms cache in north London yesterday with enough Semtex to make up to 20 small bombs, Scotland Yard said. The find also included a handgun and ammunition. Less than an hour

after news of the bomb discovery was made public, police carried out a controlled explosion close to Victoria station after a coded warning.

Full report, page 2
Belfast killing, page 6

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Woolf leads outcry against tougher penal policy



Woolf: committed to prison reform

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LORD Woolf's outspoken attack last night is the first significant sign of the mounting opposition within the penal establishment over the government's new hard line on crime.

It came as no surprise to those who know the judge's deep commitment to reforming the prison service and his willingness to criticise government where he feels that policies are mistaken. Last night, the consensus was that his speech was prompted by fear that many of the reforms that were emerging from his 1991 report into the Strangeways prison

riots have been effectively torpedoed and much of the "excellent work", as he put it, risks being undone.

Paul Cavardino, of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said: "The bulk of his report has been accepted in principle and much of it put into a white paper published last year, but this shift in policy towards greater use of prison means that the Woolf reforms are seriously at risk."

Two weeks ago, before the home secretary's statement, Lord Woolf gave an interview with the Press Association warning the government of

the dangers of retreating from promises to improve Britain's jails. With Michael Howard's clear snub to that warning, last night Lord Woolf spelt out his "increasing concern" over what was happening.

Before the speech, he was confident that the prison service would soon play its proper role. Prisons were "certainly not holiday camps, but we were getting away from the situation where too many were an appalling reflection on this country."

Lord Woolf—known as Sir Harry Woolf—is one of the most highly regarded of the

senior judges. Liberal in outlook, last year he was one of the favourites to succeed Lord Donaldson of Lynton, as Master of the Rolls, but instead was appointed to the House of Lords.

He is approachable and friendly and his quiet, unassuming but humorous manner hides a fearless and principled personality. He is not shy of criticising government policies and has come out in favour of enshrining the European Convention on Human Rights into United Kingdom law. He also attacked the government over its plan to withdraw advice on legal aid to asylum seekers and immigrants.

His background at the Bar

and as a High Court judge was in administrative or public law, first as senior treasury counsel—the chief mouthpiece for the government in the civil courts—and then on the bench.

In that field, he has tried to pioneer reforms to make it easier for individuals to challenge governments and officials.

One of the few senior judges from a non-Oxbridge background, he was educated at Fettes College in Edinburgh and University College London. Among his non-judicial posts, he is on the Central Council of Jewish Social Services.

Lord Woolf's attack, page 1

Heseltine to face new storm over pit closures

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine is likely to face a further eruption of anger over his pit closure plans within weeks of his return to the Commons.

Labour will attempt to embarrass the government over its plans to close 31 pits by forcing a further Commons debate, allowing Tory rebels another chance to vote against the closures. The move became more likely following yesterday's admission by British Coal that it was "pessimistic" about the future of 12 pits being market-tested in an effort to attract new sales.

The admission, on the eve of the anniversary of Mr Heseltine's original announcement, stoked up, renewed anger

Michael Heseltine has postponed plans to return to work today because he has flu. The President of the Board of Trade was due to resume his duties after suffering a heart attack in June. A Whitehall official said that he was unlikely to be back at the trade and industry department this week. Mr Heseltine, 60, said in a television interview on Sunday that he intended to take things gradually for a time.

among the Conservative backbenchers who had attacked the original plans. Several potential rebels finally supported the government in March after the President of the Board of Trade suggested that market-testing might save some pits.

Winston Churchill, MP for Manchester Davyhulme and one of the closure programme's Tory critics, said he felt "very badly let down by the very firm undertaking by Michael Heseltine that he would attempt to carve a market for coal. Quite a few of my colleagues will resent the fact that they have been let up the garden path."

Elizabeth Peacock, MP for Batley and Spen, who resigned from the government

over the plans, said: "They [British Coal] are hell bent on silencing the industry down to practically nothing long before the government begins its privatisation programme. We can supply coal for cheap electricity, but it does seem that everybody is writing off coal."

Neil Clarke, British Coal's chairman, said he did not want to raise false optimism about the future of collieries that have already ceased production but are now being offered to private buyers.

His pessimism reawakened Labour and Liberal Democrat calls for the government to take action to allow the coal industry to compete more equally with gas-fired power stations and coal imports. Labour may be offered the chance of forcing the issue shortly after the Commons resumes next week and within weeks of Mr Heseltine's return to office after his heart attack this summer. The government's coal privatisation bill is likely to be one of the early pieces of legislation in the next parliamentary session beginning next month.

Robin Cook, Labour's trade and industry spokesman said last night: "The threat to our pits is even greater today than a year ago." He claimed that the first wave of closures had been based on contracts for 40 million tonnes of coal, whereas the figures had since reduced to 30 million tonnes. "The government strategy condemns half the remaining pits to closure within the next year."

David Hunt, the employment secretary, said he recognised that British Coal was having difficulty in securing new markets. He told the BBC's *Today* programme: "But we did provide a subsidy which Parliament approved to enable British Coal to secure new markets and I hope they will."

No reprieve, page 25
Graham Scargant, page 25
King coal is dead, page 29

Exports 'were wrong'

Continued from page 1

Cardoen, a Chilean arms company. Both reports were circulated to Foreign Office, Customs, defence and trade and industry officials, before ministers approved a batch of Matrix Churchill export licences in November 1989.

Mr Waldegrave said: "It looks to me with hindsight that the intelligence was there. This information should have got to me." Whitehall's information distribution system was "deficient".

A briefing prepared by the Foreign Office for Mr Waldegrave, prior to the approval of the Matrix Churchill export licences in November, insisted that the

arguments for and against "remain finely balanced".

Mr Waldegrave accepted that "bits of the government" did know about the military end use of the Matrix Churchill machine tools. "If I had had more of this intelligence, some of the decisions may have come out differently."

Asked whether he thought the prosecution brought by Customs officials against the three Matrix Churchill executives at the Old Bailey in November 1992 for illegally exporting machine tools was fair, Mr Waldegrave said: "I do not know what knowledge the prosecution authorities had. It is very difficult for me to answer that question."



England fans deported from Holland after disturbances in Amsterdam arrive back at Harwich yesterday

700 Dutch police prepare for trouble

FROM JOHN GOODBODY IN ROTTERDAM

DUTCH police are mounting a concerted operation to counter the threat of hooliganism from up to 1,800 England supporters expected to arrive without tickets for tonight's World Cup qualifying match.

All 48,000 places have been sold for the Holland-England game, which could decide which country qualifies for the finals in America next year. The Dutch police yesterday stressed that officers would prosecute anyone found selling tickets on the black market, which is illegal.

A total of 700 police, includ-

ing 500 anti-riot officers and three special vans, will be supported by 500 stewards inside the Feyenoord stadium. They will attempt to control any confrontation between two of Europe's most notorious sets of supporters.

Mr Anne Geelof, police spokesman, said: "Hooliganism has got better here recently because we have more information about trouble makers. However, we still have problems for some matches." He said that special courts would sit tonight and tomorrow to deal with any

more English hooligans following the deportation of 30 on Monday and the changing of a further eight with serious offences.

These courts would also deal with anyone found reselling tickets, an offence which carries a £100 penalty on conviction.

The police are concerned that the English supporters without tickets will attempt to buy them from touts and ruin the strict segregation policy. Officers will try to persuade the authorities to let them into the match on the pretext that this

would present less trouble for the police. Mr Geelof said: "This will not happen. There is no room in the stadium."

The police will also guard against any mingling of the English with the scores of drug addicts who have a special compound next to the main railway station, overlooked by a police room. This operates a needle-exchange scheme with the backing of the local authority. Violence has erupted frequently in the area in the past.

Match preview, page 48

Detectives believe explosives find has foiled IRA assault

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND Yard anti-terrorist detectives believe they have foiled the IRA's latest assault on mainland Britain after the discovery of high explosives and equipment in a north London flat.

Last night a senior officer described the find as significant as police and forensic scientists combed the scene of the discovery at a flat in Tottenham, north London. Between 10 and 20lbs of Semtex was found, and a handgun and ammunition.

Detectives estimate that the explosive would have been used for a series of 10 bombs similar to the devices that have been used in attacks on north London streets in the past three weeks.

The find follows an intensive intelligence operation by police and MI5 which swung into action after the first of the latest attacks.

No arrests were made dur-

ing the find and the flat was unoccupied at the time that police searched it. Officers later questioned neighbours.

Officers from Scotland Yard have privately been predicting a breakthrough in their hunt to halt the latest round of IRA attacks. During the past few days police have been carrying out an intensive search for the bomb cache, searching for a network of safe houses and addresses which an active service unit might use.

Five men, all Irish, and a woman were still being questioned last night by police at Redding Green police station in west London after two waves of arrests in northwest London and Staffordshire. The operation and the arrests came in the wake of ten bombs left by the IRA in the Finchley Road, Highgate and other areas of north London in three attacks.

On Monday, officers ambushed a car in north London

and ordered the driver at gunpoint to get out and lie face down on the ground.

As he was led away, after being made to put on white overalls to safeguard evidence, more than 30 officers surrounded a tiny parade of shops in nearby Neasden Lane.

The officers, some armed with Heckler and Koch automatic weapons, raided a flat above a hairdresser's shop, arresting another two men and a woman.

The two men were released after about an hour's questioning, but the driver and the woman remained in custody.

One of the men from north London arrested over the weekend was released on Sunday night. The others remain in custody. Terrorist suspects can be held for up to seven days before being charged or released.

Belfast killing, page 6

Clarke's wise men divided on taxes

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

THE Treasury's panel of independent economic advisers, the so-called Seven Wise Men, gave conflicting tax advice to Kenneth Clarke at their first meeting with him yesterday.

However, they were united in urging the Chancellor of the Exchequer to cut base rates in next month's Budget. The panel wants to see a cut in bank base rates by one percentage point to 5 per cent.

Three of the seven believe taxes should go up in order to cut government borrowing. Gavyn Davies, chief economist with Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank, said: "There is a feeling among some of us that we should cut interest rates if the Chancellor is going to increase taxes further."

Mr Davies said consumers were already going to have about 2 per cent less money to spend next April as a result of tax increases which Mr Lamont had already put in place.

He said that if the Chancellor increased taxes further in an attempt to control the Budget deficit, "it is quite a big budgetary hit to the economy. I am not convinced that the recovery is sufficiently robust to take that with interest rates remaining unchanged."

Professor Tim Congdon, of Lombard Street Research, agreed that interest rates should come down, accompanied by a tightening of fiscal policy.

The panel's report will be published next week.

Wise advice, page 25

NEWS IN BRIEF

Territorials will join instant call-up force

Five thousand men and women in the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve are to be asked to volunteer for an instant call-up force to be used in time of tension or war. The proposal was made yesterday in a consultative document published by the defence ministry.

Employers would have to agree in advance for staff to be earmarked for such duty. A bonus bigger than the normal annual figure of £775 would be offered. Ministers have been keen to give the reserves a bigger operation role for 18 months. The new proposals will require legislation.

Under the scheme, members of the high-readiness reserve would sign up for a 12-month term that could be renewed. Personnel would be recruited both from the regular and volunteer reserves. The ministry document also proposed a "sponsored reserve" to let more civilians replace regular forces in the support area.

Tory hypocrisy blamed

Patricia Hewitt, deputy director of the Institute for Public Policy Research, yesterday accused the Conservatives of hypocrisy in blaming lone mothers for the ills of society. The Tory party and the government contained many men who left their wives as single mothers and started second families, she said. Ms Hewitt added that the government had failed to understand the modern family in its attempt to placate its right wing. The Bishop of Salisbury, the Right Rev John Baker, said children would suffer most from the government's get-tough policy with single-parent families.

Firefighters accept 1.4%

Firefighters' leaders called off a threatened strike yesterday after agreeing a 1.4 per cent pay rise. Though a disappointment for leaders of the Fire Brigades' Union, it has won a commitment, underwritten by ministers, that firefighters will receive in full again next year the product of their index-linked pay formula, regardless of the government's further pay restraint for the public sector. Union leaders had to settle below the 1.5 per cent public sector limit because the fire pay formula, linked to the top 25 per cent of male manual workers, showed a rise of 1.4 per cent.

Boy in care missing

A teenage car thief at the centre of a controversial 11-week educational "holiday" in Portugal has run away from the community centre where he was placed by social services. The 15-year-old boy is in the care of Shropshire County Council, which yesterday confirmed he had gone missing from the centre near Bala, North Wales. On Monday, the council's social services committee reaffirmed its policy of placing problem youngsters outside the county, after criticism from the local community and MPs about the stay in Portugal, which cost £1,800 a week—about £20,000 in all.

London funding risked

London could lose £240 million in government funding because new allocation rules are based on faulty data, the Association of London Authorities said yesterday. It said that the 1991 census, which will be used to help to work out funding under the new formula, badly underestimates London's population. The decision to use 1991 spending levels as a benchmark was wrong, since that was the year when most London councils faced cuts on their expenditure, the association said. Toby Harris, its chairman, will present his case to John Gummer, the environment secretary, today.

Paper rounds saved

Newspaper delivery boys and girls were saved from new curbs on their working hours yesterday when the government won a fresh "opt out" from European Community legislation. David Hunt, the employment secretary, refused to accept restrictions on the hours of youngsters under 18. After a heated exchange at talks in Luxembourg, Britain was exempted from the new rules for at least six years. Mr Hunt also blocked plans for compulsory worker information and consultation in multinational companies which he called "socialist nonsense".

Tusa heads art group

The broadcaster John Tusa, left, has been appointed chairman of the Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection, which acquires and cares for art in government buildings. Mr Tusa, 57, was managing director of the BBC World Service from 1986 to 1992. He resigned recently as head of Wolfson College, Cambridge, citing a "difference in culture and expectations".

Charity man praised

The family of Tim Goggs, a charity worker who died in Afghanistan after trying to rescue a colleague from a burning tank, received a George Medal from the Queen yesterday in recognition of his "conspicuous gallantry". Mr Goggs's father, Quentin, said: "The Queen said what a brave young man Tim was."

Royal fire drill

The Queen's staff are to attend a fire prevention seminar, it was disclosed yesterday. Royal households, including the Prince of Wales's, will be present at the course. Fire brigade chiefs set up the seminar to prevent a repetition of the Windsor Castle blaze. The course will feature advice on how to protect ancestral homes, fine art and antiques.

Murder trial halted

Mr Justice Hutchison yesterday halted the trial of Jonathan Probyn, 33, of Hardwicke near Gloucester, who is accused of murdering his estranged wife Tanya, 28, by drowning her in her car. The judge told the Bristol Crown Court jury he was ordering a retrial. His ruling came after legal argument over the close of the Crown case on Monday.

Council tax appeals

One in 15 households is appealing against its council tax bill, new government figures show. David Curry, the local government minister, said yesterday that there were still 572,000 council tax appeals outstanding against valuations of properties that homeowners disputed and a further 100,000 were likely to be lodged before the end of next month.

Diesel adverts censured

Peugeot and Esso were censured by the Advertising Standards Authority yesterday over claims that diesel cars and fuels are environmentally friendly. The ruling, challenging the popular belief that diesel is less polluting than petrol cars, came after a complaint by Friends of the Earth. The authority said research was still divided.

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مكتبة الأصيل

Moore's daughter sues for control of unsold sculptures

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE daughter of the late Henry Moore launched a multi-million pound High Court battle yesterday to wrest ownership and control of some of the sculptor's finest work from the Henry Moore Foundation.

The action by Mary Spencer Moore Danowski, which is being opposed by the foundation, is aimed at securing a ruling that hundreds of works from the last ten years of his life remained his personal property and formed part of his disposable estate.

The action, which is expected to last up to eight weeks, could lead to the break-up of the collection housed by the foundation.

Ms Moore, who is suing as one of the trustees of her parents' will, sought a ruling that unsold sculptures and other works by her father in the last ten years before his death in 1986, with artist's copies of earlier works, remained his.

The charitable foundation and its trading arm, HMF Enterprises, which are based at the sculptor's old home, Hoglands in Perry Green, Hertfordshire, argue that the works are their property under a service agreement the sculptor signed with the company in January 1977.

When Henry Moore died, aged 88, he left his estate to his wife, the Russian-born Irina, whom he married in 1929. She died nearly three years after him, leaving everything to the couple's only child, Mary and her three children.

Ms Moore, 46, is suing under her married name. She lives with her husband

Raymond Danowski, an art dealer, and three children at Compton Valence, Dorset.

She was in court to hear her father described as "arguably the greatest sculptor of this century".

Ms Moore was the foundation's first chairman and remained one of its trustees until 1980, when she resigned in opposition to plans to develop Hoglands and build a visitors' centre.

Lord Irvine QC, for Ms Moore and fellow trustee James Brodie, told Mr Justice Evans-Lombe that Moore set up the foundation in 1976 as part of an arrangement to relieve him of crippling tax assessments.

The Inland Revenue, for example, wanted to tax his unsold works as stock-in-trade at market value.

In January 1977, he ceased to be self-employed and signed an agreement under which he became an employee of the

foundation's newly formed trading subsidiary. Interpretation of that agreement was at the centre of the case, said Lord Irvine.

The judge is being asked to rule that the works in dispute, unquantified in the claim but thought to number several hundred, remained in Henry Moore's ownership and did not automatically become the foundation's property.

The trustees also seek delivery of works still in the foundation's possession, with an order for valuation of the works, an assessment of money received from disposal of other works, payment of "all monies found to be due", and damages for alleged wrongful "conversion or detention".

The foundation and its company, in disputing the claim, argue that, if their interpretation of the service contract is wrong, its terms should be retrospectively altered or treated as having been varied by agreement in the past. They also claim that Moore and his wife made gifts of certain works to the foundation.

The foundation's studios and 70-acre gardens at Perry Green contain more than 600 Moore sculptures and thousands of drawings and sketches. It is believed that about half of them, including priceless works such as *Three Piece Sculpture*, *Verrebrée*, and *Mother and Child*, are in dispute.

The Moores moved to Hoglands in 1941 after German bombs destroyed the area around his former studio in Hampstead, northwest London.

The case continues today.



Mary Moore, trustee of her father's will

Sacked RAF woman wins biggest payout yet

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER RAF woman dismissed after becoming pregnant was awarded £33,000 compensation at an industrial tribunal yesterday.

The award to Deborah Miller, 28, who is married to an RAF corporal, is believed to be a record figure in sex discrimination cases. Her award comes after a £22,000 out-of-court settlement agreed last month between the Ministry of Defence and Jacqui Thorner, 33, a former RAF medical assistant, after her similar dismissal in 1985.

The ministry is facing a bill expected to be at least £150 million over cases involving 4,500 women dismissed from the three services between 1978 and 1990. The ministry has admitted that its policy of dismissing expectant mothers, which has been changed, was unlawful.

Mrs Miller, from Humber-side, told the tribunal in Croydon, south London, that she was asked to leave the RAF within two days of disclosing her pregnancy to her commanding officer in March 1987. "I was fully committed to a career in the RAF and would have finished my full nine years and gone on to be a corporal or even a sergeant if they had let me."

Rape-trial student kissed accused

By NICHOLAS WATT

A STUDENT who claims she was raped after a Christmas party admitted in court yesterday that she had one-night stands and had kissed her alleged attacker, but insisted that a kiss was not an invitation to sexual intercourse.

The woman, who is 21, denied that she had led on Austin Donnellan, also 21, a fellow student at King's College London, after a Christmas party last year. "A kiss is just a kiss, it didn't mean anything," she told an Old Bailey jury.

Rhyddian Willis, for the prosecution, has alleged that Mr Donnellan raped the woman as she lay drunk in her room after the party. He pleads not guilty.

The woman agreed that she was drunk at the party after having had a vodka, a whisky and several ciders, and could not remember going back to her room.

She was aware of a friend in her room and found herself being subjected to a sexual act. Her attacker then raped her and she realised that it was Mr Donnellan. She pushed him away and he left the room.

After the attack, she told a friend that she could have coped if it had been a fellow student called Tim who she had also kissed at the party. "I did not find him physically repulsive like I find Austin," she said.

She described Mr

Donnellan before the alleged attack as "sweet and kind and reliable". She knew he was attracted to her.

"On a couple of occasions we kissed," the woman said. "It was not a peck, but French kissing. I began to realise that Austin didn't regard a kiss as any other student would and consequently he might have thought I was leading him on. I was worried."

"He treated me so well. But the bottom line was I didn't fancy Austin — he could only ever be a friend."

Under cross-examination from Michel Massih, the woman agreed she had confided intimate personal secrets to Mr Donnellan. He knew she had been heart-broken by the break-up of a romance in her first year.

The woman agreed that she had one-night stands and had slept with men she met at parties and clubs. "There is no heartbreak that way," the woman said. Mr Donnellan knew about these brief affairs.

Asked by Mr Massih whether she went to look for men, the woman said: "You might end up sleeping with someone, but the intention is to kiss them, but you can't exclude sleeping with them."

The court has heard that the woman was so upset that she was unable to take her examinations and is now taking her degree again.

The trial continues today.



Lunchtime at a secondary school in London. Campaigners want to see the back of snack food machines and a return to healthier eating

Healthy eaters seek return of the tuck shop

By BEN PRESTON
AND JOHN O'LEARY

SCHOOLS are being urged to revive tuck shops to lead the fight against vending machines selling pupils a "junk" food diet of soft drinks, crisps and chocolate bars.

The School Meals Campaign (SMC), a pressure group promoting healthy eating, yesterday said head teachers must resist financial incentives to introduce machines that can earn schools thousands of pounds a year.

Hundreds of secondary schools have installed machines in recent years from which they receive a percentage of sales. The trend is of concern to food experts alarmed by the growing number of youngsters who skip meals to "graze" on fast food.

A survey by Newcastle upon Tyne University, found the number of obese children has doubled in ten years.

Dr Tim Lang, secretary of the SMC, said head teachers

with tight budgets were increasingly tempted by new sources of revenue. He said: "The point of a vending machine is to sell children sugary liquid masquerading as water and concoctions of fat and sugar masquerading as food. These machines need to be phased out and real food phased in."

He urged schools to compete with vending machines

by opening or upgrading traditional tuck shops that offered children home-made snacks, fruit juices and fresh fruit as alternatives to sugary foods and drinks.

Coca-Cola and Schweppes Beverages Ltd aimed at primary schools this summer in a promotional campaign that promised the installation of a machine could bring payments that "easily add up to

as much as £400". In response, the British Dental Association wrote to its district officers, asking them to discourage head teachers from taking up the offer because of the risk of tooth decay among pupils.

A spokesman for Coca-Cola and Schweppes said that promoting vending machines in schools was "the norm" for the soft drinks industry. In

approaches to head teachers, the company stressed the advantages of having drinks available at any time in the safety of school grounds, and identified the potential for fundraising as a "key secondary benefit".

Senior staff at Norwood School, south London, were yesterday considering how to respond to an approach from Coca-Cola and Schweppes. George Varnava, the head teacher, said: "We have been resisting a certain amount of business pressure. Dispensing machines might suit the school because we have difficulty getting through lunches since moving to a cash cafeteria system, but I am conscious of our responsibility to encourage healthy eating."

The school had been offered an incentive of £140 per machine and a can recycling scheme. Mr Varnava had been given no details of the school's share of profits.

Leading article, page 21

Father in Isles hunt for missing librarian

THE father of a German librarian who has disappeared while on holiday in Scotland with her boyfriend joined the police search for his daughter yesterday.

Major Otto Bohlen, 48, said he believes Linda, 25, is still in Scotland although there has been no trace of her since September 7, when she and Stefan Mohr, 24, left a youth hostel in Uig, Skye.

Apart from a family from Lewis who all claim to have seen them in Ullapool on September 14, there have been no confirmed sightings since. On September 7, Miss Bohlen cashed cheques at the Bank of Scotland in Portree. Nothing has been withdrawn since.

Major Bohlen, an army training officer stationed at Darmstadt, said the area in Harris and west Lewis that was searched on Saturday had been recommended by a friend to the missing couple. He said he had met Stefan Mohr just once, when they had gone hill-walking near Heidelberg for a weekend three months ago. "I got a good impression of him."

Herr Mohr, he added, was a sports enthusiast with a keen interest in mountain bikes. He was a physics student and had recently been working as an electrician in the state theatre in Brunswick to pay for his studies.

His daughter Linda had promised to phone home every week, but had rung only once, on September 5. Major Bohlen said she was a trainee librarian with a particular interest in Celtic history and the Middle Ages, which was why she would have wanted to visit the Western Isles.

Police issued a stern warning yesterday to parents and children after a 14-year-old girl was abducted. She had been forced into the back of a red car in Castle Douglas, Dumfries and Galloway, by a man who drove her a mile along a country road.

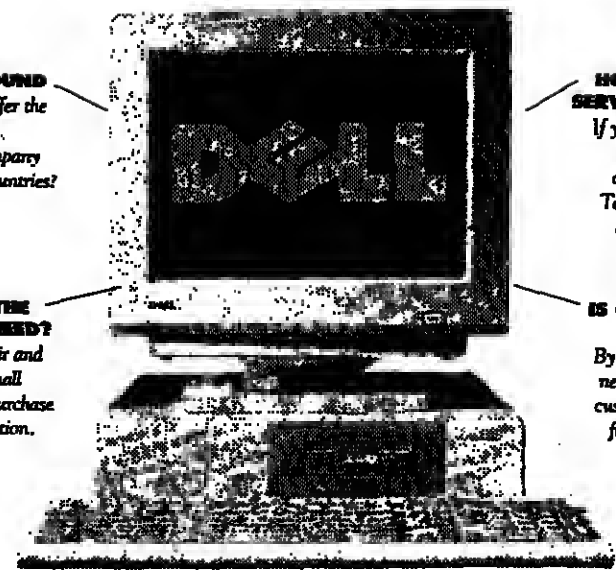
When the driver stopped, the girl escaped. She was distressed but uninjured, police said.

Last Wednesday a man tried to force a 12-year-old girl into a red car in Dumfries.

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Thatcher lets the mask slip

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

BARONESS Thatcher has tried to reject long-held suspicions that she did not get on with her mother.

It has been noted that the former prime minister rarely mentions her mother Beatrice. For more than 30 years, her entry in *Who's Who* has referred to her only as the daughter of the late Alfred Roberts.

In a rare slip of her stern public mask, Lady Thatcher appeared flustered when questioned during an interview for the *Radio Times* about the omission. She was asked whether she had idolised her father and scorned her mother. She replied: "Absurd. It's as well I don't read these [suggestions] because they would upset me no end."

The *Who's Who* entry was then raised. She replied: "What do you mean? How could I not? She was my mother. Oh dear, didn't I? Well I must correct that."

Lady Thatcher was effu-



Lady Thatcher rarely mentions her mother, right



sive about her husband Denis in the interview. She said that she never had the ambition to be prime minister, but took each opportunity as it arose. "Denis was marvellous, as you know. He etched out his own life, did not compromise his beliefs and the public loved the way he said things. I could not possibly say."

She vehemently denied suggestions that, at the end of her premiership, she suffered mood changes and drank too much whisky.

"Good heavens, I've never drunk too much in my life," she said. "And I didn't go through mood changes. I knew I had to build a new life, and it took time to shake down and see how we were going to do it."

A suggestion that she was attracted to smooth men was equally firmly knocked aside. "I can't stand smoothies," she said.

Of her removal from office, she said with resignation: "Politics has always been a dirty business."

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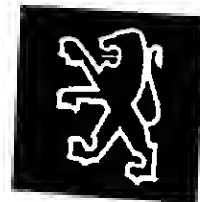
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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 13 1993
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Public schools
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Pensioners play sport
the prize money

600 graduates in court for defaulting on student loans

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

MORE than 600 graduates have been taken to court for defaulting on repayments to the government's student loans programme, it was disclosed yesterday.

By the end of the last academic year, defaulters owed the Glasgow-based Student Loan Company almost £500,000, according to a breakdown given to Stephen Byers, the Labour MP for Walsend. In 38 cases, courts had ordered payments to be deducted from graduates' wages.

The figures, supplied by Ron Harrison, the company's chief executive, show a significant rise in the number of graduates falling behind with repayments. County court judgments had been obtained against 636 defaulters by the start of last month.

The increased court action follows Mr Harrison's warning in August that the company would have to "get tough" with the small minority of graduates refusing to repay loans. Bailiffs were sent to recover a total of £1,100 from three defaulters, and debt collectors in the United States, Canada, France and Germany were commissioned to trace 200 others.

Mr Byers, who called for an urgent investigation of the company's methods, said yesterday: "I don't think anyone expected that there would be so many court cases as a result of non-payment. A system which puts tens of thousands of students into government-sponsored debt and then hauls hundreds of them before the courts because of their inability to repay must be fundamentally flawed."

The education department said the company had received a clean bill of health from the National Audit Office, and was acting prudently to recover public money. Interest rates are tied to the retail

prices index, and have fallen to 1.2 per cent. Repayments are deferred if graduates earn less than £13,980, or 85 per cent of the national average wage.

However, the National Union of Students claimed yesterday that many graduates had found it difficult to negotiate deferrals. A spokeswoman said: "We have been very much aware of communications problems between graduates and the Student Loans Company. Some have been unable to suspend direct debits even though they cannot afford to make payments."

"This sort of thing certainly will not endear the company to students. Many prefer to deal with banks because the rates may be higher, but at least they know where they are with them."

Mr Harrison was unavailable for comment yesterday, but has stressed repeatedly that most of the 750,000 students who have taken out loans in the three years of the programme are conscientious about their obligations.

Barclays Bank estimated this summer that the average student owed £1,672 on graduation, 27 per cent more than in 1992.

The number of schools balloting parents on proposals to opt out of local authority control has declined sharply this term, the pressure group Local Schools Information said yesterday. Only 19 ballots are being held in October, compared with 95 in the same month last year. Nine of the 12 results declared this term have been against opting out, according to figures confirmed by the Electoral Reform Society.

The education department said the number of ballots was usually low in October, but last year had been an exception because of the pent-up demand released by the general election result.

Public schools join charity tax protest

By CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT AND ANGELA MACKAY

INDEPENDENT schools joined the growing opposition yesterday to a think-tank's proposals to abolish their charitable status and tax benefits.

The think-tank's report this week, partly funded by the Home Office, proposes a radical shake-up of Britain's 170,000 voluntary-sector charities. It suggests that they be divided into those funded wholly privately to campaign for reform and those which provide services partly funded by the government.

Almost 1,200 of Britain's 2,500 independent schools have charitable status, including Eton, Harrow and Marlborough. The report specifically identifies private schools as charities which may receive tax relief for doubtful reasons and at the expense of "genuinely philanthropic concerns".

The Independent Schools Information Service (Istis) said that schools received about £41 million a year in tax benefits compared with the £55 million they disbursed. If they lost charitable status, fees would rise and scholarships would be cut, resulting in greater exclusivity.

This was a point taken up by school bursars. David Cook, of Wellington College in Berk-

shire, said: "If charitable funds are taxed, we would certainly have much less to spend on scholarships and other benefits."

The Labour party said that the report, written by Centris, should respect the independence of the voluntary sector. Splitting organisations into those that provide services and those that campaign would be "bad in principle and dangerous in practice", Alun Michael, shadow home affairs spokesman, said.

Oxfam said yesterday that the report was a disappointment and a wasted opportunity. "Oxfam strongly disagrees with the report's recommendations and regards the supporting research as seriously flawed."

The report does not have full government backing, but has stirred enormous controversy because many charities realise that the proposals would receive a sympathetic hearing in some government departments.

One of the report's authors defended his proposals at a press conference yesterday, saying that he believed it offered a new vision for the voluntary sector. He was unable to give specific details of how any new tax arrangements would work.

Pensioners play spot the prize money

By PAUL WILKINSON

The whereabouts of the £225,000 Spot the Ball prize at the centre of a dispute between two pensioners was unknown yesterday.

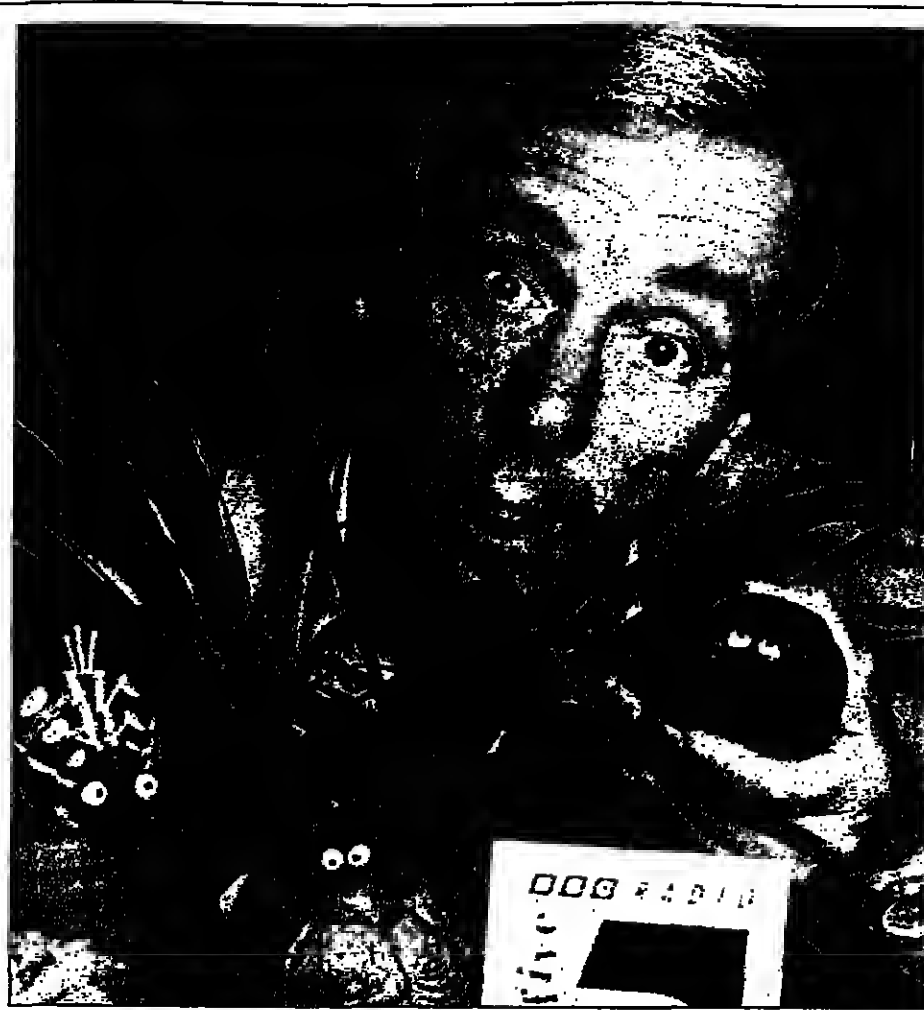
Joy Richardson, 64, who took out a temporary court order freezing half the amount in the account of Tom Buckingham, her former companion, after he walked out on her, believes it is still there. Her relatives are convinced that Mr Buckingham, 68, a retired policeman, withdrew the money before the order was granted.

Yesterday, Mr Buckingham, who moved out of their home near Chester-le-Street, co. Durham, within days of winning the cash,

was said to be staying with relatives in the county.

The couple met in March this year. She was widowed and he was divorced. Within weeks, he had given up a flat to move into her terraced home in Felton. On the week of the win, Mr Buckingham had filled out two coupons, both with his name, but could not decide which to send. Mrs Richardson claims she told him to send both and gave him £2 towards the additional stake.

"All I want is my share," Mrs Richardson, a cleaner with the local health authority, said. "From the time he got to know of the win, he acted queer."



Andrew Sachs, whose Wiggly Park for Radio 5's youngest listeners is at risk.

Radio 5 sacrifice appals teachers of English

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE wrath of thousands of BBC radio listeners is about to descend upon Broadcasting House after the corporation's own admission that its plans to create a new £30.2 million news and sport service will disrupt existing networks.

As the BBC yesterday defended its decision to replace Radio 5, claiming that it could not allow its programming decisions to be driven by nostalgia, opponents to the plans emerged within and outside the BBC.

Nicholas Kenyon, controller of Radio 3, told BBC executives that he was unhappy about having to take one hour of schools programming into his afternoon schedules, while the National Association for the Teaching of English, which represents 5,000 teachers, joined the chorus of disapproval.

Anne Barnes, the association's general secretary, said the BBC's decision to sacrifice children's programming was a big blow to literacy. "Hearing a story or a drama on the radio is an enormous incen-

■ The BBC defended its decision to create a £30.2 million news and sport channel against claims of damage to other services

tive for children to pick up the book from which it is drawn," she said.

Unveiling details of the news and sport network, which will be launched in April, Liz Forgan, managing director of BBC Radio, maintained that very few children listened to programmes made specially for them. Even Radio 5's evening story at 7.15pm attracted an audience of just 20,000 in its eight to 11-year-old target market, she said. That figure is disputed by Radio 5 producers. "We have to be where our audiences want us and not where our own nostalgia might lead us," Ms Forgan said.

Outlining the structure of the new channel, Tony Hall, head of news and current affairs, said that the station's motto would be "first and live". It would cost £30.2 million a year, compared with Radio 5's £23.7 million, and would be funded from effi-

ciency savings. Initially, it would employ about 150 staff, compared with 75 full-time employees on Radio 5.

The service will carry at least 2,000 hours a year of sports coverage and run news bulletins on the hour and half hour. There will be a sports report every hour, regular weather and travel updates and a business news service.

Ms Forgan said that the new service would not be "downmarket". The BBC was aiming to appeal to a young mass audience in metropolitan areas outside London. She conceded, however, that the service would have a strong bias towards male listeners. The BBC's own research says male listeners to sports radio coverage outnumber women by nine to one.

24-hour fix, page 19
Diary, page 20
Media, pages 32-33
Sports comment, page 46



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مكتبة الشاهين

Sales revival steers car wars to UK

■ Manufacturers of new prestige models are turning to Britain for buyers as recession puts the brakes on continental sales

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN has been chosen as the multi-million pound battleground for the autumn war between manufacturers of some of the smartest cars in the showrooms.

As sales on the Continent plummet, manufacturers such as Saab, Mercedes and BMW are spending millions of pounds to promote their new models in the UK.

Mercedes has already taken 3,000 orders for its new C-class executive range of cars, just launched in the UK. The launch is backed by an aggressive marketing campaign that includes a new finance scheme to allow buyers to acquire one of the most desirable marques for as little as £199 a month.

Saab has replied with the launch of the new 900 range and wants to double sales of the model next year. BMW is

shrinking, with buyers appearing to move towards smaller cars. Fewer than 10 per cent of cars will be sold in the executive sector this year because most sales are made to companies.

Mercedes has to reverse a fall in sales in the UK to 15,987 cars so far this year from more than 18,400 cars compared with the same time in 1992. Saab sales are down from 8,000 last year to 7,500.

Manufacturers say that firms are not yet profitable enough to encourage them to invest in new cars for executives at the levels of three or four years ago. New tax rules will apply from next April which will calculate an executive's benefit in kind against 35 per cent of the list price of their car instead of against engine size as in the past. The more expensive the car, the more tax they will pay.

The result has been a swing towards high specification smaller cars, particularly the new Mondeo from Ford. That is an important move for the executive car companies such as Saab, which says 85 per cent of its cars are paid for with a company cheque.

Tom Purves, of BMW (GB), said: "This is a volatile market with many changes going on. The move is away from corporate ownership to private ownership and that has made people look hard at what they are buying."

John Brewer, of Saab Great Britain, said: "The money is not out there yet. The recession plus the prospect of bigger tax burdens over the past few years have meant companies have not replaced cars on the normal cycle but have waited for much longer, for four years, for example. There is also evidence of people moving to smaller cars and away from the executive segment."

Saab is attacking the market by introducing the new 900, the first remodelling of the range for 15 years and with backing from General Motors, its parent company.

Sales of 900 models would normally be about 3,000 a year. Saab wants to sell 6,000 next year and has made fleet buyers for company cars a prime target, taking them to Sweden for test drives.

"This is a volatile market. The move is away from corporate ownership and people are looking hard at what they are buying"

offering a new three-year warranty on all its cars, the only company catering for executive buyers to do that apart from Jaguar.

The company has also absorbed half of the 13 per cent swing in exchange rates against the mark, holding UK prices firm for the rest of the year, a move expected to cost the company dearly.

The struggle for customers comes as executive car manufacturers find themselves trapped by a double recession in the UK and on the Continent, where sales are down almost 16 per cent this year.

Britain is the only European market to grow this year. But the revival in new car sales here has failed to reach the executive sector — which includes models from BMW, Mercedes, Audi, Saab, Volvo and upmarket cars from Ford, Rover and Vauxhall.

Sales in that sector are down 7 per cent on last year and still



Saab's hopes are riding on the 900, top. BMW is pushing its 318, left, and Mercedes is promoting the C-class

Exporters cash in with luxury models

By OUR MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

SOME of the most luxurious cars in British showrooms are being bought for resale in Far Eastern markets at big profits.

Manufacturers are keen to stop the trade in the glamorous cars, which are now among the cheapest in Europe thanks to tax cuts and currency devaluation.

Mercedes-Benz and BMW say that hundreds of cars destined for British customers are turning up in Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong.

This "grey market", although not illegal, is worrying manufacturers so much that they have warned their British dealers they risk losing their franchises if they knowingly sell cars for export.

The targets are high-priced models such as Jaguar sports

cars, Mercedes limousines and Range Rovers on which profits, often of thousands of pounds, can be made.

Britain has become the unlikely centre of a world grey market for luxury cars after the government's decision last year to scrap the 10 per cent special car tax. Exit from the exchange-rate mechanism and the rapid devaluation of sterling helped to make cars on sale here among the cheapest in Europe.

The buyers, who often turn up in showrooms, clutching attaché cases filled with cash, can also reclaim the VAT on their purchase as it leaves the country — a saving of £13,777 on a £92,100 Mercedes S600.

Tom Purves, Managing Director of BMW (GB), said last

night that cars were sometimes shipped three or four at a time. "The whole industry is worried about the problem, but there is little we can do."

The targets are those cars which are relatively high priced in this country but often very expensive abroad or not available in some markets. We get an allocation of these cars for our UK customers and if those cars are shipped off to other countries, British buyers lose out.

Analysts at CAP, Nationwide warn that foreign dealers are also buying up-market

second-hand cars in large numbers, forcing up prices by offering bids at auction "far over the UK market value."

The analysts say in their October guide: "The export of used cars from the UK is now a rapidly expanding area of business activity for a growing number of traders."

The high prices being paid may be good news for those who are looking to trade on the occasional vehicle of this type, but for others who want this stock for the home market it is making life very difficult indeed."

Complaints upheld over dolphin film

By LIN JENKINS

A FILM about the release of two captive dolphins, shown on BBC2, was in part emotive, inaccurate and misleading, the Broadcasting Complaints Commission ruled yesterday.

The adjudication was followed by an immediate call for a full enquiry by the Department of the Environment into the fate of the dolphins and the way in which funds were raised for the project to release the two dolphins to join another in the Caribbean.

Robert Gibb, chairman of Flamingo Land, a pleasure park and zoo in North Yorkshire, said the environment department had been at fault in granting an export licence. "When we imported some from the United States, an inspector came to see our facilities. Nothing was done in this case. Zoo Check, which did this operation, are fundraisers, not animal experts, and to have the film shown on BBC2 gave it authenticity."

The commission found in favour of six of 12 complaints about the programme *Into the Blue*, part of the *Wildlife Showcase* series shown on July 9, 1992. Dr Margaret Klinowska, of Cambridge

University, an expert on cetaceans, supported the complaints. Claims that Rocky, the first dolphin freed, was dumb were untrue. Dr Klinowska had recorded him in captivity at Morecambe.

Complaints were made by Peter Eason, a marine biologist at Flamingo Land, Alan Eastcott, former curator at Brighton, from where the two dolphins Missie and Silver were bought for release, and John Dineley, who worked at Woburn. They claimed that the dolphins probably died after their release.

The commission concluded that claims made in the film that the dolphins were "now swimming free in an open ocean" related to the time shortly after release and accepted that sightings since were disputed. The commission said the claim in the film, narrated by Michael Caine, that the dolphins were "literally dying to entertain" was unwarranted.

Will Travers, director of The Born Free Foundation, which helped to fund the film made by Silverback Productions, said that where the commission endorsed complaints there were unresolved matters of interpretation.

Football kicks off African festival

By ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

FOUR football matches between a pan-African side and selected Premiership clubs, complete with music and African-style entertainment, will introduce a big cultural festival in the summer of 1995.

Africa '95, taking place at 36 venues around Britain, will mix contemporary art and music with more traditional visions of African culture. Nigerian reggae will meet the ancient Taarab music from Zanzibar, and visual art from 20,000 BC to the 20th century will be exhibited at the Royal Academy of Arts,

while Senegalese photography and Zimbabwean sculpture will be on show in London and Leeds.

The artists will be selected by a committee of advisers including the broadcaster Trevor McDonald, the novelist Doris Lessing, the painter Tom Phillips and Alan Yentob, controller of BBC1.

The performing arts will also be strongly represented. The Royal Court Theatre in London will focus on Uganda. Workshops will take place in Kampala leading to a production in London.

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Labour women targeted in 'whispering campaign'

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

LABOUR MPs are complaining about a "whispering campaign" against the women members of the shadow cabinet in advance of next week's first genuinely secret elections to the party's high command.

With MPs required to cast at least four of their 18 votes for women, it is alleged that some are trying to disparage the qualities and performance of women already there in order to boost the men's chances.

The women on the shadow cabinet are Ann Taylor, the shadow education secretary, Harriet Harman, the shadow chief secretary, Mo Mowlam, the citizen's charter spokesman, and Ann Clwyd, shadow national heritage secretary. Margaret Beckett, as deputy leader, is already a member.

Supporters of Mrs Taylor say that she has been targeted. She was isolated recently when her consultative education paper outlining options for charging university students for tuition was withdrawn at the last minute on the orders of the party's powerful joint policy committee headed by John Smith.

"She has been left swinging in the wind — no one in the shadow cabinet has come to her aid. They are more interested in their votes. It is a total disgrace," a close colleague said yesterday. He added: "It is not only Ann — the word being put around is that the women are just not up to it. It is quite unfair."

The male-dominated parliamentary Labour party is one of the most conservative forces in politics. In recent months some of its older members, particularly from the northern reaches, have been protesting strongly about the march of positive discrimination for women in Labour affairs.

For the first time this year a woman was guaranteed a place on the national executive, and in next week's elections MPs will have to vote for four women candidates. Against vociferous opposition in some quarters, the number was increased from three.

Party leaders are nervous of a backlash. Although the rules require them to vote for four women, it does not stipulate that four women should be

elected. By spreading their votes among the women candidates, the more chauvinistically inclined men could stage a spoiling operation that could result either in fewer than four women making it, or in one of the less leadership-friendly candidates from the far left making a surprise advance.

To do so would, however, require a degree of organisation not normally associated with the PLP, often laughingly described as the most sophisticated electorate in the world.

The leading women candidates to join the shadow cabinet are Llin Golding, social security spokesman, Joyce Quin, employment, Clare Short, environmental protection, and Dawn Primarolo, health.

Important changes have been brought in this year to make the system democratic. Labour MPs will file into Commons committee room 12 next Wednesday to cast their votes in person in a secret ballot. Previously ballot papers were sent in the post and there have been persistent allegations, never quite dis-

missed, that some were handed to the whips to fill in, with favours given in return.

The elections are seen as Labour's annual popularity contest, and some MPs doubt whether Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, will keep his place at the top after incurring opposition from the left to his economic speeches this year. He could be overtaken by fellow moderniser, Tony Blair, the shadow home secretary, or Robin Cook, shadow industry secretary. Jack Straw, the shadow environment secretary, is likely to boost his position after his onslaught on the Liberal Democrats in Tower Hamlets.

John Prescott, the darling of the party conference, may soar even higher. There are reservations over the performance of Tom Clarke, the shadow Scottish secretary. If there is any justice in the world George Robertson, the European affairs spokesman and star of his party's Maastricht campaign, will be elected for the first time. But justice and the PLP do not always go hand in hand.



Ann Clwyd, top, could be joined on the shadow cabinet by Llin Golding, left, and Joyce Quin

Short shaken after first win against world champion

By Ramona Keene and Ian Murray

NIGEL Short finally achieved victory in the 16th game of *The Times* World Chess Championship last night, when Garry Kasparov resigned on the 38th move. Short now trails the 24-game match by 5½ points to 10½.

Short said after the game: "I could hardly sign my scoresheet, my hand was shaking so much. I had almost forgotten what it was like to beat Kasparov. His mistake was to avoid exchanging queens, then it would have been level."

The British player, controlling the White pieces, opened the game with little of his earlier aggression. Short seemed only too aware that he would be only one game away from losing the entire match if he failed to exploit his advantage as White to win. Although he followed the identical opening sequence he had used in his last six games playing White, he spent three times as long moving his pieces as Kasparov.

The world champion put on a pantomime at seeing his opponent persisting in following a sequence which has yet to produce anything but a draw. He plunged his head in his hands as though worried and surprised when Short made his first expected move.

Finally, as though bored, he broke the usual pattern with his seventh move and rushed offstage looking as if he needed a rest. He correctly predicted that this change of tactic would mean Short needed a long think.

The British player began trailing more and more on the clock, but he needed the time since Kasparov had planned an ambush for him, which he only spotted and countered after staring at the big screens on stage showing the state of play instead of studying the pieces on the actual board.

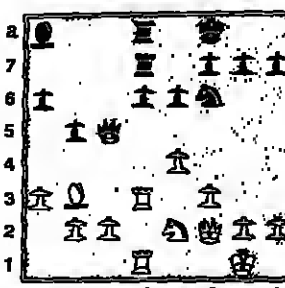
Lord Callaghan, the former prime minister and leading light of the parliamentary chess club, slipped quietly into the Savoy Theatre to watch the game.

The opening was once again Kasparov's favourite Sicilian Defence Najdorf Variation. On this occasion Kasparov he varied from previous games by playing 7...b5. There was a brief flurry of excitement in the opening as Kasparov offered the sacrifice of his pawn on g7 to obtain counter-attacking chances against Short's king. Short, however, with his 14th move b3, snuffed out such possibilities.

White: Nigel Short
Black: Garry Kasparov
Sicilian Defence
1 e4 c5
2 Nf3 d6



3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf5
5	f3	a6
6	Bc3	a5
7	Bb3	b5
8	O-O	Be7
9	Qf3	Qc7
10	Qg3	Qxd8
11	Nxc6	Qb7
12	Re1	Rd8
13	a3	O-O
14	B3	Ne8
15	Bh6	Kh8
16	Kh1	Bxg5
17	Bg5	Nf5
18	Qxg5	Rd7
19	Re1	Rd8
20	Rd3	Qc5
21	Re1	Kg8
22	Qe3	Kf8
23	Kg1	Ke8
24	Qf2	Ke8
25	Ne2	g6



26	Nd4	Qe5
27	Re1	g5
28	c3	Kg7
29	Bc2	Rg8
30	Nb3	Kf6
31	Rd4	Kf7
32	a4	h5
33	axb5	axb5
34	Rb4	h4
35	Nd4	g4
36	Rxb5	d5
37	Qh4	Qh5
38	Nf5+	Resigns

□ Jakarta: The Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman arrived here this week for the second half of the rival Fide championship.

The international chess federation Fide said last week that Indonesia had agreed to host the second half of the 24-game match after Oman failed to put up the expected £900,000 prize money. Timman was trailing Karpov, the Russian former world champion, by five games to seven after the first 12 games played in The Netherlands. (Reuters)

Winning Move, page 48

Mephisto
CHESS COMPUTERS

THE TIMES checkmate £1,000 to be won every day

CHECKMATE is the new instant cash game that anyone can play — you don't need to be a chess expert. All you have to do is check the positions on your Checkmate Card against those printed on the daily Checkmate Chess Board, marking the pieces off on the Checkmate Table as the positions on your card match those of the Checkmate Board. It's so simple to take part — and perhaps win £1,000.

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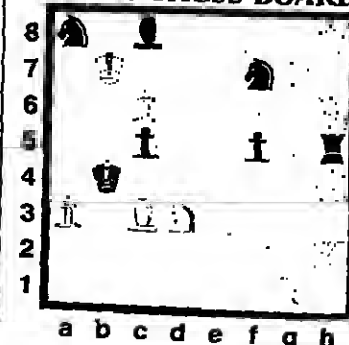
Compare the positions on your Checkmate Card against those on Today's Chess Board (right). If a combination on your card matches a chess piece on the Checkmate Chess Board mark off that piece in the Checkmate Table.

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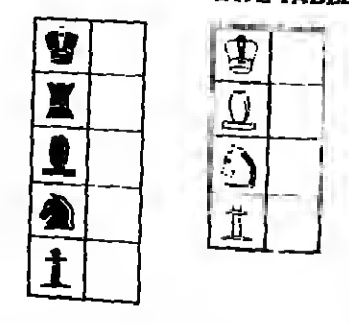
□ HOW TO CLAIM: If you mark off all the pieces in the Checkmate Table you must claim your prize on the same day by 3.30pm. Claims cannot be accepted outside these hours. You must have your Checkmate Card with you when you claim. In the event of equally many winners, the prize will be divided equally among the winners. For General Rules, see the reverse of your Checkmate Card.

□ TODAY'S WINNER will be announced in *The Times* tomorrow. Yesterday's winners: Miss D Norton, East Dulwich, London; Mr G Lilley, Salford, Avon

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Four properties offer window on buyer's market

By Rachel Kelly
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

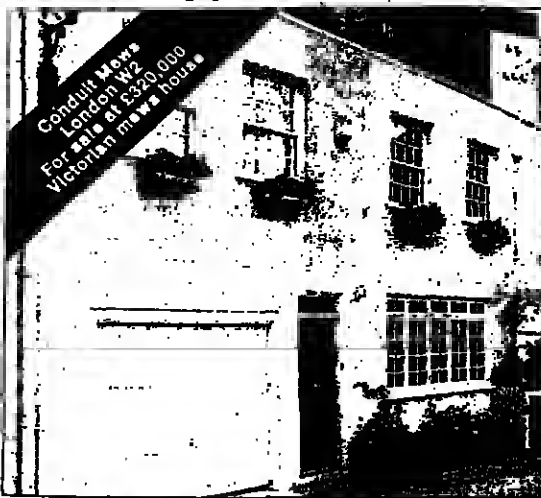
THE housing market is in confusion, according to top analysts and lenders. Last week, building societies disagreed over how prices moved in September. The Halifax says that prices are going up (by 0.3 per cent in September compared with August); the Nationwide says they are going down (by 1.8 per cent).

Nor is it clear what is happening to sales. The figures for August from the Building Societies Association show that lending is down, but those from the Corporate Estate Agents show increases in monthly sales.

John Wriglesworth, housing market analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, said: "Given that the general indicators are confusing, you might as well look at concrete examples. At least they are telling you what is happening to particular houses."

To find out what is really happening in the market, *The Times* is tracking the tale of four houses, all just put on the market.

To set the scene, each of the properties is described on the right.



A wider-than-average three-bedroom Victorian mews house with a 33ft double reception room and garage went on sale this week for £320,000. The vendors had received several valuations above and below the £320,000 mark. "This was a figure we felt was fair as an asking price, leaving some scope for negotiation while attracting maximum interest," said Katy Gibbons, manager of Barnard Marcus's office. "Price fluctuations have stabilised and there is a general lack of new quality instructions, despite a wealth of proceedable purchasers. There is increased demand for unusual properties that are light and spacious, especially with garages," she said.

Similar properties are selling locally, Ms Gibbons says, although it is hard to compare Conduit Mews with other mews houses as it occupies two plots and is therefore extra wide. It also has three double bedrooms with double height ceilings.



A 19th-century farmhouse in the Nottinghamshire countryside, standing in a three-quarter-acre garden, is for sale at £225,000. The agents compared the property and similar houses sold during the spring to determine the asking price, which reflects the accommodation — five bedrooms and three reception rooms — and its pleasant setting.

The price also reflects the house's access to the A1 (five minutes' drive), and Newark (15 minutes) with travel to King's Cross, London, in 1 hour 30 minutes. The property has available up to 60 more acres. Geoffrey Ball, director of William H. Brown, says: "The market in this area remains difficult, though interest in individual properties such as this appears to have risen in the last six to eight weeks."

Top schools nearby include Bramcote, Ranby House and Well House Prep Schools, and Workop College.



This five-bedroom, three-reception room detached house is on the outskirts of Brighton. The agents Fox & Sons priced the house at £209,000. Robert Harding, the agents' manager, says: "We have been involved in the sale of several four and five-bedroom detached properties in the area during the past year, ranging from £165,000 to £220,000. This is a quality family home and we have used recent successful sales experience to price it realistically."

Prices have been stable in the area since January, Mr Harding says. "Demand is much stronger than last year, fuelled by the fixed-interest rate mortgages now readily available, and there has been far more movement in the upper-price ranges. Demand for our four-five bed detached houses is still good and quality property fresh on to the market finds ready viewers." The property is close to Hollingbury Golf Course and to schools from infants to sixth-form college.



This double-fronted property, a former store, is situated centrally in Walsham le Willows, an attractive Suffolk village, and is Grade II listed. There is a 29ft by 18ft living room, dining room, playroom, kitchen, four bedrooms, two bathrooms and back garden laid to lawn with established borders.

Maldwyn Jones, area director of the agent William H. Brown, valued the house at £120,000. "We have valued, and sold, the property twice since 1987," Mr Jones said. "This gives us a fair idea of today's price."

Prices have been stable in the area during 1993, but market activity has gradually improved since the start of the year, Mr Jones said.

Parents fear for child care

By Jeremy Laurance, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

MEDICAL advances made 30 years ago, which have allowed more damaged babies to survive into adulthood, have created a growing fear among the families looking after them, a new report says.

Thousands of elderly parents are concerned that they will die without knowing what will become of the mentally impaired children for whom they have cared all their lives.

The report by the Mental Health Foundation says that 63,000 adults with learning disabilities (formerly called mental handicap) are being looked after by their parents or other relatives, half of whom are over 60.

However, there are no vacant places in local author-

ity, voluntary or private homes because they are filled by people being discharged from long-stay hospitals.

At least 25,000 people will require new housing in the community over the next five years, according to the report. Only 500 homes are being built this year and funding is expected to be reduced next year.

"Families have seen the crisis looming," June McKerron, director of the foundation, said. "The question of what will happen to their son or daughter causes enormous concern to parents. They are desperate to see them settled and independent."

Fewer babies are being born with learning disabilities, because of improved ante-

natal care, and they are living longer. About 1.2 million people are estimated to have some learning disability, of whom 200,000 are severely affected.

The report, *Learning disabilities: the fundamental facts*, says that the number of severely affected people living in hospital have halved since 1971 to 30,000, which is 15 per cent of the total. However, the majority living in the community still get less than half the resources.

The foundation's ten-point plan to improve care calls for an end to the segregation of people with learning disabilities, "to end the ignorance which is a breeding ground for fear and intolerance".

Home birth campaign divides consultants

By Our Health Services Correspondent

A DIVISION is growing among senior obstetricians over whether home births are safe. A campaign launched yesterday to improve the opportunities for women to choose a home birth was backed for the first time by consultant obstetricians. They publicly criticised the Royal College of Obstetricians for opposing the movement.

Dr Luke Zander, a GP obstetrician in London who launched the campaign, accused the college of adopting a "cemetery approach" to childbirth which was inappropriate for a natural, low-risk process.

Donald Gibb, consultant obstetrician at King's College

Hospital, London, and a fellow of the royal college, said: "There is a perception among senior obstetricians that women and midwives interested in home births are mad, bad and marginal. They are not. They are intelligent and sensitive and want to be involved in a choice about this most important biological event in their lives."

Malcolm Pearce, consultant obstetrician at St George's Hospital, Tooting, said that three quarters of women had normal deliveries and did not need to see an obstetrician. "I would like to suggest that half the obstetricians in this country be made redundant," he said.

Peers back gene techniques

By Nigel Hawkes, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE application of genetic engineering in science and industry is being delayed by needless regulation, the House of Lords select committee on science and technology concludes in a report published today.

New techniques have great promise in agriculture, drug manufacture and medicine, but present controls are costly and bureaucratic. European Community directives are allowing the United States and Japan to steal a march on Europe, the committee says. It urges the government to deregulate the industry as quickly as possible.

Most fears about genetically manipulated crops and other organisms have been unfounded, it says. The regula-

tions are unscientific and fail to distinguish between activities involving real risk and those that do not. They are "an unnecessary burden on academic researchers and industry alike".

The level of investment and uncertainties over patent rights also give rise to concern. "But in our view any regulation which reduces competitiveness must be reviewed critically, especially when it cannot be justified on scientific or public interest grounds," the committee says.

When the technology for modifying genes first emerged, the fear was that genetically engineered organisms might escape and run amok in the wild. Many of the regulations were designed to

minimise this risk. But experience has shown that the dangers were exaggerated and the EC directives were "excessively precautionary", the committee says.

It also recommends that there are no grounds for labelling foodstuffs to indicate that they have been produced by genetic modification.

The Biotechnology Association welcomed the report and endorsed its conclusions yesterday. Louis Da Gama, its executive director, said: "We hope the select committee will encourage government to take a more flexible approach based on increased knowledge, relevant expertise and technical progress."

Leading article, page 21

British IT Company bucks the trend

Opus Technology PLC has announced a record August figure for sales of Personal Computers to major businesses. In what is usually a quiet month Opus achieved figures exceeding £6 Million, surpassing all expectations. Among the successes was leading Life Assurance company Provident Life. Opus supplied over 180 machines as part of a long term contract. Other customers included Universities, Hospital Trusts and Local Authorities, and many hundreds of end-users.

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TIM 52

Zoo antelope catch mad cow disease

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

Programmes for breeding animals in captivity are threatened by the spread of spongiform encephalopathy at London zoo

SCIENTISTS at London zoo have discovered that a strain of "mad cow disease" affecting a type of antelope can be transmitted much more easily than was thought.

The finding uncovers a threat to breeding other species in captivity unless it can be shown that they are not equally vulnerable. The scientists say there is no evidence that similar transmission is occurring among cows.

The zoo's small herd of kudu, spiral-horned antelopes closely related to cows, has been severely hit by a disease similar to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Of eight animals born in the herd since 1987, five have contracted the disease. Only one of the five could have eaten feed containing protein from sheep, believed to be the origin of the outbreak.

The kudu is not the only zoo species to suffer the disease since it appeared in cows. It has also been found in domestic cats and their larger relations, the cheetah and the puma, in eland and nyala, and

in the gemsbok and the Arabian oryx. In the United States, mink have been affected by it.

The infective agent and its mode of transmission are unknown, but the evidence from kudu suggests that some species may be more easily infected than others. Sheep are believed to catch the disease by contact with placenta in fields after births, but in the case of the kudu even this route seems unlikely.

In *The Veterinary Record*, the scientists eliminate most routes of infection. Infected feed cannot account for four cases. Nor can at least three of the affected animals have caught the disease from their mothers, who did not suffer from it. It is possible but unlikely that the mothers were carriers that passed on the infection without having symptoms themselves.

If this were so, it would have important implications for the disease in cows. It is more

likely, the scientists believe, that an unidentified agent entered the herd in contaminated feed and was passed along, as with more mundane infections. Because of the danger to other animals, the kudu herd has been isolated.

Another danger taken seriously by the zoo, a world centre for breeding rare and endangered species, is that animals bred in captivity could carry the infection when released into the wild. If they proved as vulnerable as the kudu, this could be disastrous.

The scientists say that the next step must be to examine whether the agent causing the disease in kudu is the same as that in cows. If it is, the conclusion would be that the kudu were simply more susceptible to the disease. If, however, it turned out to be a different and more easily transmissible form, the case for isolating the kudu would be even stronger.

RSPCA urges farmers to take good care of imported birds



Vince Tyack feeds some of his ostriches at Brookfield Farm, Oxfordshire

Charity code puts ostriches first

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE world's first welfare code for the rearing of ostriches was launched yesterday on a farm set amid the hedgerows and tidy fields of Oxfordshire, a far cry from the African bush where the great flightless birds have their natural home.

Ostrich breeding is the latest venture by farmers looking for profitable alternatives to more conventional forms of animal husbandry, which have become more and more dependent on public subsidy.

There are now about 300 ostriches on some 30 farms in Britain. The farmers make their money by rearing young ostriches and selling them to other breeders, mainly abroad, but hope eventually to earn most of their income from slaughtering the birds for their meat and hides.

The decision by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) to publish the code angered some animal welfare campaigners, who think ostrich farming should be banned.

Joyce D'Silva, director of Compassion in World Farming, said: "I am appalled. These are essentially wild birds that cannot be farmed without causing them undue stress. By issuing these guidelines, the RSPCA has in effect given its blessing to ostrich farming in this country."

But Alastair Mews, head of the RSPCA's farm animals department, said: "While sharing the concern about ostrich

farming, we take a more pragmatic view. It is our job to try and ensure that they are properly treated."

Brian Bertiam, a former curator of mammals at London zoo, who drew up the code for the RSPCA, said there was no reason why ostriches could not be farmed humanely. The birds had been reared in South Africa since the 1860s and after 20 generations of selective breeding could now be regarded as domesticated.

Vince Tyack, of Brookfield Farm, Church Westcott, Oxfordshire, began keeping ostriches on his 100-acre smallholding two years ago. He has set aside seven acres for the birds, which he imports as chicks from southern Africa, and keeps up to 30 at a time. He has just sold 20 to breeders in Canada. The best birds can fetch up to £10,000 each.

"I also run a small construction business and keep 24 beef cattle, but I hope to give these up in favour of full-time ostrich farming," he said. "I think there will be a good market for its meat, which is similar in taste and price to top-quality beef but much lower in fat and cholesterol."

A pair of ostriches can produce at least 25 offspring a year and breed for 40 years. On the debit side, ostriches are classed as dangerous animals and farmers have to install strong fencing to contain them, and imported birds have to be quarantined.

Broken leg halts Newall hearing

FROM RICHARD FORD
IN GIBRALTAR

EXTRADITION proceedings against Roderick Newall, who is accused of murdering his parents on Jersey, were adjourned yesterday after his lawyer broke a leg.

Felix Pizzarello, Gibraltar's stipendiary magistrate, adjourned the case until October 20 after being told that Christopher Finch was in the colony's general hospital. Mr Finch is understood to have fallen near White's Hotel in Gibraltar on Monday.

Desmond de Silva QC, representing the state of Jersey, said: "I understand Mr Finch has broken his leg in two places. He is clearly somebody who does nothing by halves."

The Crown is applying for Mr Newall, 28, a former lieutenant in The Royal Green Jackets, to be extradited to Jersey to stand trial for the murders there of his father Nicholas Newall, 56, a Lloyd's underwriter, and mother Elizabeth, 47, in October 1987.

His brother Mark, 26, an international financier who is being held at La Moye prison on Jersey charged with the murders, had his cheek broken yesterday in an attack.



Roderick Newall: accused of murder

NEWS IN BRIEF

Taxi driver kidnapped and beaten

A taxi driver was kidnapped, robbed, beaten and taken half-way across England before being pushed on to the road.

The unnamed driver's ordeal began when he picked up three youths in Cheltenham early on Sunday. He was bundled into the back of his Ford Sierra and driven north up the M5, before joining the M42 and heading towards London on the M1. He was thrown out of his cab at Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.

The three kidnappers beat the 27-year-old with a screwdriver and spanner, breaking his nose, and robbed him of £12. The injured cabbie, whose car was dumped in Watford, was recovering last night at his home in Cheltenham.

Fatal error

Aiden Ramsden-Metcalf, 15 months, of Morley, Leeds, who died from a drug overdose, may have mistaken his mother's sedatives for Smarties, an inquest at Leeds was told. Verdict: accident.

Diggle appeal

Angus Diggle, 37, the solicitor convicted of the attempted rape of a fellow lawyer after a Highland ball, was granted leave to appeal against his three-year jail sentence.

Lawyer's death

Robert Nella, 49, a solicitor, of Eastbourne, was found dead in his fume-filled car after his firm ran into financial trouble, an inquest at Eastbourne was told. Verdict: suicide.

Naipaul ban

The writer V S Naipaul, 61, was fined £600 and banned from driving for a year by Salisbury magistrates after admitting drink-driving.

EC fishing policy claims shark boat

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE first fishing boat to be taken out of operation under the government's £25 million decommissioning scheme was destroyed yesterday afternoon.

Howard McCrindle, 43, its owner, is believed to be the country's last shark fisherman. He said the government's policy on fishing was a disgrace and a "wanton waste of perfectly good vessels".

His 50ft trawler, *Star of David*, met its end in a scrap metal yard beside Ayr harbour, bringing to an end a 28-year career. A mobile crane hoisted it out of the water and deposited it in the yard, to be broken up for scrap.

Under the government's

rules for the scheme, the boat had to be destroyed. The *Star of David* is the first of 142 boats that will be scrapped in the first year of the scheme, which will run for three years and cost £8.4 million a year.

The boats represent about 5,450 gross registered tonnes and will reduce the British fishing fleet's capacity by 2.5 per cent. To comply with EC rulings, the British capacity must be reduced by 19 per cent.

The voluntary scheme was oversubscribed by three times this year. The payments work out at £340 a vessel capacity unit and Mr McCrindle is believed to have received £40,000 for his boat.



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Russian election
may be delayed

Constitutional court ruling allows both German government and its critics to claim victory

Strict speed limits imposed on Bonn's road to Maastricht

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

EIGHT judges yesterday set up the traffic signs pointing Germany's way to the European autobahn — but also imposed strict speed limits.

That was the initial reading of yesterday's long-awaited constitutional court ruling on the Maastricht Treaty, a verdict that allowed both the Bonn government and its critics to claim a victory. The court declared Maastricht to be in line with the German constitution but obliged the government to move cautiously on any further steps towards European integration.

President von Weizsäcker, who has already signed the treaty, will today stamp on the official seal. This will allow the treaty to come into force on November 1. The European summit, planned for late this month to celebrate the treaty and to set out the future agenda, can now go ahead.

Two years of marathon negotiations, parliamentary brinkmanship and political feuding have come to a close: relief was written all over foreign minister Klaus Kinkel's face yesterday as he sat in the Karlsruhe court room. "The European express can continue on its way," he said. "The signals are on green."

But Dr Manfred Brunner, the main complainant, declared after the verdict: "The court has tied a leash around the neck of the monster that we call Maastricht and has put some of its fangs."

For Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, Maastricht was tantamount to a renewal of the marriage vows between France and Germany. It has become a deeply personal matter. His aides say Herr Kohl has become convinced that he is the last chancellor

Two years of political feuding have come to a close. Aides of Helmut Kohl claim he is the last chancellor capable of pushing through the Maastricht agenda

capable of pushing through the Maastricht agenda. Yet the Maastricht court case — the closest that Germany has come to a public debate about the treaty — has revealed a strong current of Euro-scepticism among ordinary Germans. Opinion polls show that a majority of them believe that the country should first come to terms with unification before embarking on closer European integration. A recent opinion survey

GERMANY

showed that 80 per cent of Germans favoured a referendum to decide on the treaty.

It was this "democratic deficit", this failure of consultation and uncertainty about future safeguards, that was addressed by the German court yesterday. Most of the complaints, however, were dismissed. The treaty, said the judges, did not take away any



Kinkel: relieved by the court decision

of the rights constitutionally guaranteed to German citizens. It was not the role of the court, said the judges, to block Germany's membership of a supranationally organised, inter-state community. The condition of membership, however, was that such a community and its institutions enjoyed popular legitimacy.

The hope of Dr Brunner, the doctory Munich politician and former European Community aide, was that the judges would make a referendum an obligatory part of their verdict. The judges fell well short of such a step. Instead the court concentrated on the powers of the European parliament. "The democratic basis of European union have to keep pace with the process of integration," they said.

If the German parliament's powers were to be hollowed out by the treaty, then Maastricht would become unconstitutional — and the court would be watching this issue carefully. Wilfried Telkaemper, a Green deputy, said that Bonn was now obliged to fight for more transparency in EC decision-making.

The court set clear limits to Germany's part in the future integration of Europe. There was to be nothing "automatic" about its participation in monetary union, said the judges. Plainly, either parliament or a referendum would have to be deployed before Germany could effect a single currency.

EC on course, page 1
George Brock, page 20
Leading article, page 21

Politicians defer to judges

BY ROGER BOYES

GERMANY'S constitutional court, based in Karlsruhe, is composed of two panels of eight judges. Their official role is to interpret Germany's constitution — several thousand complaints are considered each year — but increasingly they have become arbiters in bitter political rows.

Recent rulings have included a judgment on abortion regulations in east and west Germany and the deployment of German forces outside the Nato area.

The fundamental problem is that the constitution, the so-called Basic Law, was drawn up at a time when Germany was regarded as a defeated country with little prospect of unification.

The constitution provides few clues as to how

to tackle the new demands posed by unification, or by Germany's growing global role.

Since politicians, facing a year of local and national elections, are reluctant to deal with such complex issues, the judges are also required to make politically charged decisions.

Moving out: The German cabinet has set a timetable to shift the seat of government to Berlin by the year 2000. A year after German unification in 1990, parliament voted by the thinnest of margins to switch from Bonn back to the capital that had existed until 1945, but no date was fixed. Dieter Vogel, the government spokesman, said the cabinet decision had been unanimous and the finance minister had been asked to account for some of the cost in his budget next year.



Members of Germany's constitutional court delivering their cautious verdict on the Maastricht Treaty in Karlsruhe yesterday

Romance loses its bloom for a neglected suitor

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

WITH the German hurdle finally cleared, the French government insisted yesterday that the Maastricht treaty must now be carried out to the letter. However, the call from the foreign ministry sounded strangely like a lovers' attempt to revive an extinct romance. Given the blows which have rained down on of late on the brainchild of President Mitterrand and Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor.

A year since the treaty squeezed through the French referendum, it is hard to find even the most pro-Maastricht official who believes the 1990s vision of a unified West Europe will come about as promised. When asked about the fate of Maastricht the other day, Alain Juppé, the foreign minister, could only define it in negative terms. France must fight "tooth and nail" to cling to the goal, he said, because no one had so far come up with a better idea for restraining German ambitions and ensuring joint prosperity.

More shocking to many on the left, Jacques Attali, President Mitterrand's adviser in the 1980s, said last week that "we must now forget Maa-

tricht" if Europe is to ensure its security and compete with the rest of the world.

The government's pro-Maastricht argument does not cut much ice with the majority of its own Gaullist MPs, who are heavily opposed to what they see as a technocratic attempt to sap French sovereignty. The collapse of the Exchange Rate Mechanism in

FRANCE

August and the failure of Germany to come to France's aid over the Gatt trade negotiations have only heightened a sense that Maastricht is part of a raw deal inflicted on France by the world. A big factor in France's inward turn of recent months is the perception that the EC is becoming a mere free-trade zone along "Anglo-Saxon" lines.

Given the degree of resentment reflected in the media, it was surprising that polls last month showed that 46 per cent of citizens would still approve the treaty. However, only 38 per cent believed it would ever be implemented.

Friction with Germany is the main source of French

anxiety over the EC's future. If France remains isolated in the Gatt negotiations, a further backlash against Germany is certain. Herr Kohl has been busy reassuring France of German loyalty and he is certain to flatter French sensibilities when he addresses the senate in Paris today. President Mitterrand, still a fervent Maastricht apostle, is adamant that the current tensions are passing frictions. However, experts and politicians on both sides of the Rhine are aware that the mutual needs that gave birth to the EC as a vehicle for "German brawn and French brains" are fading as Germany reassumes its old role as continental giant.

To balance the picture, while Euro-scepticism may be running high in France it is nothing compared with the British version. Polls show half the public still believes France will gain from "European construction". And Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission and father of the federalist drive, is ranking in the polls second only to Edouard Balladur, the prime minister, as a candidate to succeed President Mitterrand in 1995.

Eurocrats beat a retreat in face of national ardour

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN LUXEMBOURG

THE EC

AS THE Maastricht treaty crawled slowly towards yesterday's final approval in Germany over many long months, the buildings of Brussels began to imitate life.

Beside the deserted Berlaymont building, abandoned by 3,000 officials of the European Commission because of its asbestos, rises the vast bulk of a new warren for the myriad committees of national officials and ministers who bargain and bicker over the policies they are given by the Commission. The states will shortly occupy the grandest premises in the city's EC quarter.

It is little wonder that M Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, calls the rival building swathed in mud-brown bathroom marble the "Caelestru palace". Few EC citizens may be able to tell the difference between the European Commission, which initiates and enforces policy, and the Council of Ministers, which decides EC laws.

But change in the Community is measured by shifts of power between its institu-

tions. As the buildings so brutally reveal, the Maastricht treaty empowers the governments at the expense of the Commission.

When M Delors leaves Brussels at the end of next year, his successor will not be allowed to hint that he is a statesman who is able to become the "president of Europe".

The governments have gratefully watched the Commission's burst of law-making for the single European market come to an end. See the Commissioners become the scapegoats for all Europe's ills, cut the Commission's budget back and have ensured that Commission officials cannot dominate the co-operation in foreign policy and criminal justice which Maastricht opens up.

The entry into force of the Maastricht treaty on November 1 will mark the moment when national governments decided that EC policies were too important to be left to Eurocrats alone.

Nato cuts bring big savings

BY MICHAEL EVANS,
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE great shakeout in Nato's armed forces continues unabated, with the amount of money spent on the military per head of population dropping significantly.

Nato is now spending \$503 (£335) per capita on defence, compared with \$548 in 1985. Russia is spending \$268 per head, compared with \$443 in 1991. The figure for 1985 is unknown.

The latest statistics showing the downward trend in defence spending in the West and in Russia are in an annual report by the International Institute for Strategic Studies. By contrast, countries in the Middle East and Asia remain among the biggest per capita spenders on defence. Kuwait spends \$5,000 a head; Saudi Arabia, \$1,371; United Arab Emirates, \$2,418; Oman, \$943; and Israel \$783.

America has completed the reduction of its army to 12 active divisions. Manpower strength has been cut by 100,000 to 575,000. The number of tanks has dropped by about 1,150. The US Marine Corps has suffered less, retaining three active divisions and one in reserve.

The reduction in Britain's armed forces is on course to meet the 1995 target of 119,000 in the army, 32,500 in the Royal Navy and 70,000 in the Royal Air Force.

France, where spending on defence per capita has risen since 1985, has reduced its army equipment holdings, withdrawing 480 tanks and about 80 artillery pieces from service.

The Military Balance 1993-1994, IISS, Brussels, £36.

Seles's attacker tells of his eternal devotion to Graf

FROM A CORRESPONDENT
IN HAMBURG

THE man who stabbed Monica Seles told a court yesterday how his vain love for her rival, Steffi Graf, turned him into a man with a deadly mission.

Günther Parche, 39, said in a statement read to the Hamburg court: "Steffi is a dream-like creature. Her hair is like silk and her eyes glitter like two diamonds. There was an earthquake inside me and my whole world caved in when Seles beat Steffi in the Berlin Open and she became the world's No. 1. I burst into tears. For a time I didn't want to live anymore and I left home to get away."

The jobless factory worker, worshipping Fräulein Graf from his attic bedroom in the east German village of Goersbach, swore to help her regain her "rightful throne". Herr Parche said that he intended to injure Miss Seles when she stabbed her as she rested on the court during a tournament in Hamburg this year. The attack has kept Miss Seles out of world tennis for almost six months.

"I didn't want to kill... just to put her out of action for a few weeks so Steffi would become No. 1 again," he said.

Herr Parche, a loner, had turned his room into a temple where he worshipped his "unattainable goddess". Judge Elke Bosse was told. The walls were covered with posters of Fräulein Graf, and the television ran night and day with videos showing her matches.

Herr Parche said: "I fell in love with Steffi when I saw her on TV as a young up-and-coming player. She was so natural, so fresh, so young. For Steffi I would have walked through fire. She is loved,



The stabbing of Monica Seles at the Hamburg Open has kept her out of tennis for almost six months

respected and admired in the whole world. And I'm her greatest fan. I will always follow her."

The judge read extracts from two letters that Herr Parche wrote Fräulein Graf, enclosing money from his £4,000 factory savings. In one, he sent £120 after hearing that Fräulein Graf's personal effects were stolen during a match in Brighton. "I wanted her to buy a necklace as a talisman," Herr Parche said.

The judge held up the blue-handled knife with a five-inch blade with which Herr Parche had stabbed Miss Seles. He hid it in a plastic supermarket bag when he left his village. He buried Fräulein Graf's posters in the garden to keep them safe, bought a £30 ticket, and carried the bag into the Rotenbaum tennis ground in Hamburg. Herr Parche said

he had intended to stab Miss Seles in the right arm, but she held it in front of her as she sat on the court and he could not reach the arm. So he drove the knife into her right shoulder instead, "not with much force. I did not want to injure her seriously". He said he was amazed by the angry reaction of the spectators.

Herr Parche, who does not smoke and hardly drinks, plucked up courage by drinking a can of beer before the attack. He said: "It cost me a great effort to do this. But I realise it was wrong. Something like this will not happen again."

NEWS IN BRIEF

US pair win economics Nobel prize

Stockholm: The Nobel prize for economics was awarded to Robert W. Fogel, of the University of Chicago and Douglass C. North, of Washington University, St Louis, Missouri, for research that helps to explain Japan's strong economy and why the former Soviet bloc has gone downhill.

They used modern statistical methods to re-examine economies of the past in winning the prize of 1.7 million kronor (£540,000) (AP)

Pasok returns

Athens: Andreas Papandreu has been sworn in as Greek prime minister after his socialist Pasok party won 71 seats in the election against the New Democracy party's 10.

French strike

Paris: French state workers in rail, air and postal services went on strike disrupting the Paris Metro and mainline trains as well as medium-haul flights by Air France and many post offices.

Sanctions push

New York: Britain and its allies plan to push for a vote in the security council to impose new sanctions on Libya for refusing to turn over the two suspects in the Lockerbie bombing.

Vanishing fly

Los Angeles: The first fly ever to be placed on the US federal endangered species list is the Delhi Sands flower-loving fly, whose numbers are diminishing because of shrinking habitat. (AP)

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Israeli resort ready to cash in on peace dividend

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN EILAT

WHEN Israeli and Palestinian negotiators open their first round of talks just across the Egyptian border at Taba today, the residents of the seaside resort town of Eilat will be more eager than most to see success.

Although the details of how and when the two sides intend to carry out the transfer of power under the "Gaza-Jericho first" plan signed a month ago in Washington have little direct bearing on Eilat, this highly developed Israeli town stands to benefit greatly from an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Situated in the Gulf of Aqaba along a five-mile coastline sandwiched between Egypt and Jordan, with Saudi Arabia only nine miles away, Israel's most famous holiday destination is now dreaming of becoming the epicentre of a "Red Sea Riviera".

Paul Hochman, the mayor of Eilat, said: "We have a plan ready to go as soon as relations are normalised. The possibilities for tourism and industry are enormous." Currently the resort draws about a million tourists a year, many of them Europeans

attracted by the Gulf of Aqaba's desert climate and its famous coral reef. However, the city is already over-developed and running out of coastline.

"Imagine if in the future we could offer people staying in Eilat a day trip to visit [the Nabataean ruins of] Petra in Jordan, or a drive in the Sinai



desert in Egypt or even a cruise along the Saudi coast, then we really would become a Riviera," the mayor enthused.

Not surprisingly, his views, combined with speculation in the Israeli press about the size of the "peace dividend", has already encouraged the imagination of Eilat's 25,000 residents. Those with a keen

eye for profit envisage a day when Saudi oil sheikhs will drive their limousines up the coast and book the most expensive hotel suite in Eilat to escape the strict Muslim laws in their own country.

Orna Degani, the public affairs manager of the town's new Princess Hotel, said: "Eilat would be transformed if the conflict ended. People would no longer be afraid to come to Israel."

Shimon Peres, the Israeli foreign minister, told the Knesset foreign affairs and defence committee on Monday that he had met Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan in Washington last month and that the two had discussed the possibility of transforming Aqaba and Eilat into one commercial port. A similar proposal is also being studied for the construction of a new international airport that would serve both towns.

Yesterday, Moshe Shahal, the Israeli energy minister, confirmed that representatives from Gulf Arab states made a secret visit to Israel last month to discuss the possibility of constructing a natural gas pipeline to Eilat.



Eilat, with a five-mile coastline on the Gulf of Aqaba, hopes that the Israeli-PLO peace pact will allow it to become the centre of a "Red Sea Riviera". The resort town already attracts about a million tourists a year

Arafat is backed to head new authority

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A TRIUMPHANT Yassir Arafat says he will head the Palestinian authority that takes over from the Israelis when they withdraw from the Gaza Strip and West Bank city of Jericho.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman won endorsement of his peace plan with Israel from the Palestine Central Council late on Monday night in Tunis, which also authorised him to set up the body that will take over from the Israelis. Mr Arafat said it would include PLO officials and Palestinians from the occupied territories.

Three leading members of Mr Arafat's dominant Fatah group did not vote on the peace plan, delegates said, including Farouk Kaddoumi, chief of the PLO political department. But he did vote for the authority.

Also against the deal were Abu Abbas, the Palestine Liberation Front chief, and Shafik al-Hout, who pulled out of the PLO executive committee last month in protest at the accord.

Bankers outfox police to profit from hot money

■ Billions in dirty money is being laundered through financial centres. In Russia, it is feared elections may cement the mafia's hold on banking operations

BY TIM SEBASTIAN

Watched only by snakes and monkeys, a small group of drug traffickers has taken to trekking at regular intervals through the Colombian jungle armed, somewhat curiously, with spades and battery-powered hair dryers. Their mission is to dig up plastic-covered bundles of "hot" US dollars before they disintegrate in the humidity.

The banknotes are dried lovingly by hand and then consigned again to the ground to await their injection at some future date into the international banking system, when the criminals think it is safe to do so. The drug traffickers are more careful than they used to be: there are more regulations to circumvent. But the money will soon be absorbed into the global financial network, laundered and lost. It is called "financial Aids" because, once the money reaches the system, nothing can remove it.

Driven by a growing trade in drugs, guns and other criminal commodities, a flourishing international network of money-launderers has arisen.



en to take care of the profits. One senior British police officer said: "There's no political will to do anything about it. Billions of dollars are laundered each year through the City of London and other financial centres. We barely know what's going on and we don't have the resources to combat it."

In Washington, congressional officials paint a bleak picture of governments forced to make accommodation with some criminal groups in order to crack down on others. One federal agency said attempts to arrest an international money-launderer had been thwarted when police were informed he was working for the CIA.

Police can only watch, powerless, as banks around the world pick up the illegal business conducted by the discredited Bank of Credit and Commerce International. In the wake of the scandal, they have concluded that BCCI was simply one of a number of banks providing "match-making and laundering" services to governments, intelligence agencies and terrorists.

The network of crime extends to post-communist Russia, too. A leading Italian investigator into the Mafia said in Rome this week that Russia has become "a kind of strategic capital of organised crime from where major operations are launched". Luciano

Violante said the Russian mafia had held two meetings with Italian criminal organisations since 1991 "to discuss drug money laundering, the narcotics trade, and even selling nuclear material".

Senior Russian financiers have concluded that it is now impossible to conduct legal business in their country. They cite the all-pervasive hold by criminal groups on banks, industries and joint ventures. According to confidential Russian reports, at least 2,000 government officials are suspected of corruption. Yet the police are powerless to take action. The Russian interior ministry says there is no legal code under which they can act, and many officials are protected at the highest levels.

Russian banks are forced to pay bribes to the central bank to obtain cash. Thousands of businesses have been set up simply to launder the profits of crime and to suck in foreign capital for projects that never materialise.

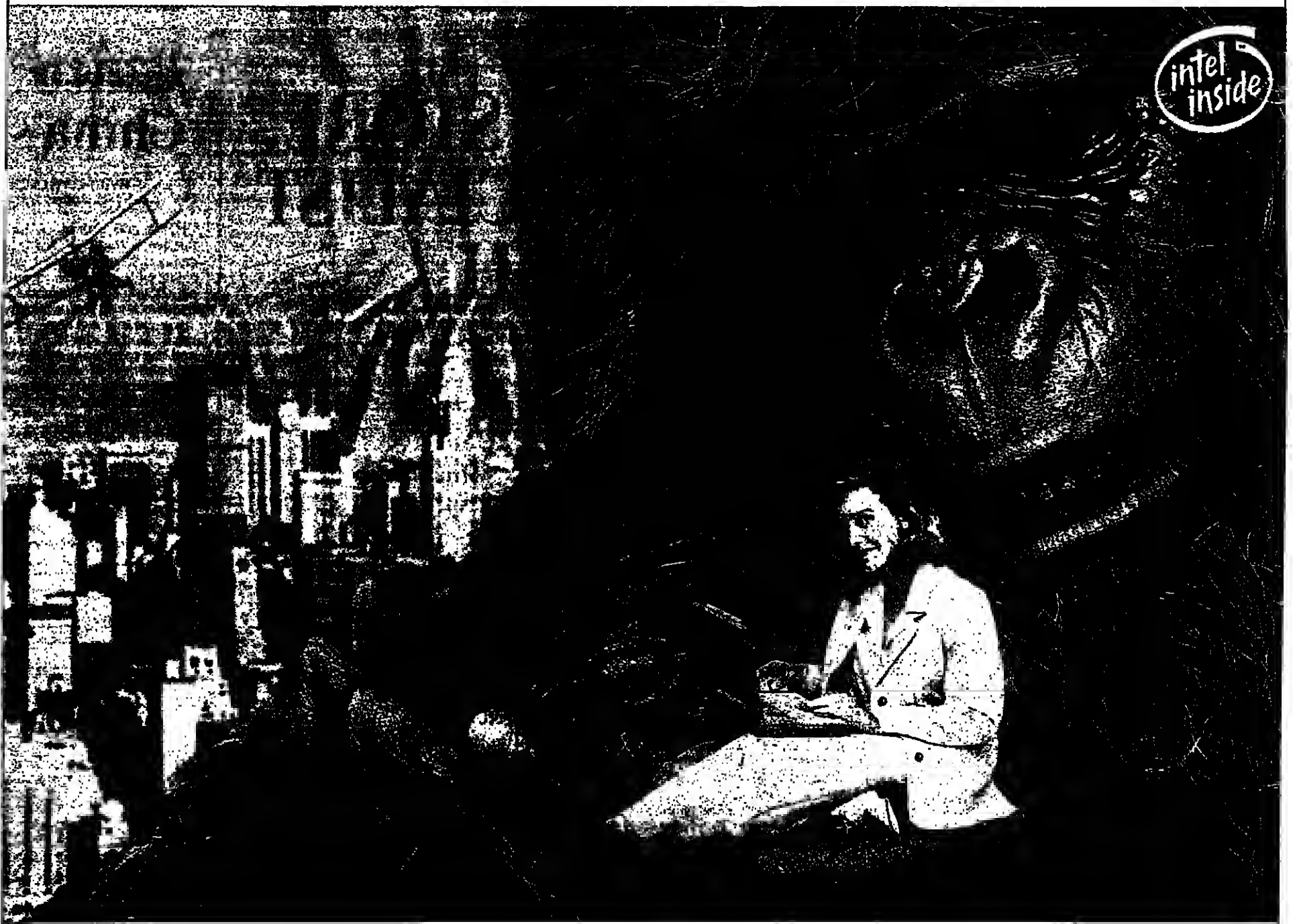
Faced with intimidation and pressure, many Western companies have begun scaling back their operations in Russia to await better days. Serious concerns are emerging that, without restrictions on campaign finances, the forthcoming elections in Russia will cement the influence of organised crime and bring its candidates political legitimacy in the new parliament.

A similarly bleak picture emerges in the former Yugoslavia, where organised crime operates in the shadows of all three armies. "When the dust settles," said a senior Scotland Yard official, "much of the territory will have been bought and sold by criminal groups, with the backing of their political masters."

Al over the world, nascent democracies are providing fertile opportunities for criminal groups, on a scale beyond the imagination and resources of law enforcement. The European authorities have so far proved powerless — or unwilling — to act. East European police chiefs this week met EC officials in Belgium to discuss ways of combating international crime. But despite EC directives on money-laundering, Germany still insists on obtaining the serial numbers of every banknote in question before a prosecution can be brought. France brings hardly any prosecutions at all. That, say officials, amounts to a fraud licence.

Governments, far from tackling the problem of international commercial fraud and money-laundering, have got no further than the stage of "problem recognition". Tim Sebastian is a former BBC correspondent in Moscow and Washington and the author of several spy novels. His investigation into international corruption, *Blind Eye*, begins tonight on BBC Radio 4 at 8.15.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 13 1993

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Admit it — your job's a doddle

In the old days there was cushy work. Julia Llewellyn Smith finds that life in the 1990s, from the boardroom to the shopfloor, is much more stressful — with a few exceptions

FOR 35 years Len Martin has had a very pleasant life. Every Saturday he would make his way to the BBC's *Grandstand* offices, where, in famously measured tones, he would put millions of football fans out of their misery, by reading the results from an Autocue.

But on Saturday, disaster struck. As he read the tables his voice grew hoarser and hoarser, until finally he fell silent, defeated by a bad cold. The reading had to be finished by a colleague. Mr Martin, aged 74, swore to worried fans that this was not the end. "It's such an easy job," he says. "I would like to go on until I'm 90."

Once you could say you had an easy job and no one would stir from their siestas, except maybe to give you an approving nod. These were the days when everyone still believed in John Maynard Keynes's vision of a fully automated future, where the biggest problem faced by mankind would be how to fill the hours of spare time.

From the dons snoozing in their college armchairs to the journalists boozing in El Vinos, from the typesetters moonlighting as taxi drivers, to the student lying in bed until noon, everyone was enjoying nice work, which they could get without trying very much at all.

Today, however, making such a statement could attract a lynch mob of underpaid middle manag-

ers and the long-term unemployed. In the 1990s, the unions are broken, student grants are frozen and a long lunch means 20 minutes in the canteen.

A recent poll of 200 directors, showed they worked an average of 55 hours a week, two thirds worked at least one in four weekends and half fail to take all of their holiday allowance. "The has changed completely," says Professor Cary Cooper of the Manchester School of Management. "There are very few jobs left that could truly be called easy."

PROFESSOR Cooper adds: "Every easy job has been snuffed out. Once we would have said that a librarian had the least stressful job, but now there are fewer posts and more technology to master. Twenty years ago there was an image of academics sitting around in an ivory tower, discussing ideas."

"Now we are warning our younger colleagues that they will have to raise money from industry to buy equipment, to take more and more students on, to get as

many articles published as possible, and be assessed on our teaching performance."

If an easy job means an undemanding job, then there are still plenty to go around. But according to Professor Cooper basic labour, where you can go home on the dot of 4.59pm and spend all day doing nothing more taxing than assembling a few parts to the sounds of Radio 1, can be the most stressful work of all. "Jobs can be stressful, because of overload as well as underload," he says. "When you are working on a shop floor and repeating some basic activity, you can suffer a lot of stress from not being pushed enough. Human beings like stimulation."

An easy job, then, is one where you are paid a lot of money, to dabble a little in the thing you like doing most. And whatever Professor Cooper may say, such jobs still do exist. The difference is that a new, unwritten law of etiquette has been passed that demands that the more a job is glamorous and well-paid the more the lucky person must deny it.

Thus we learn that the Duke of Westminster, the richest man in

the land, is at his desk at 6.30am and leaves at 8.30pm. Dire Straits sang about getting their money for nothing and their chicks for free, but had to hastily add that this was an ironical look at the misconceptions about the life of a rock star, which made no mention of their hard work saving rain forests.

YOUNGER members of the royal family remind us constantly that their frequent holidays and five-bedroomed houses in the better districts of London were earned through nothing more than an honest day's labour.

I decided to call some friends, with pleasant-sounding jobs, so they could tell me how hard they worked. Unfortunately, none was available. My friend who is a producer for a holiday programme was in the Seychelles. The film critic was at the cinema and the food writer was out to lunch.

All these people are subscribing to what Professor Cooper calls the two-jacket syndrome. You take two jackets to work, one to leave on the back of your chair and one to slip on while you nip off to the golf course. Edward, who has a highly

paid job as a city broker, returned my call, when he got back from lunch at 4.30pm. "My work is as easy as making a cup of tea, no, probably easier," he said, slurring slightly. "I just chat on the phone all day to clients and take them out to amazing lunches. But whenever I see the boss I grab a pile of papers, ruffle my hair and stare intently at my computer. If he found out I was having fun, he might not want me any more."

Sarah Doukas, of the Storm model agency, whose models are always assuring us that it is tough being paid a fortune, to wear beautiful clothes in exotic locations, says: "The girls work incredibly hard. Our most famous model, Kate Moss, is in Vietnam one day and in Outer Mongolia the next, without having time to pack a change of clothing. She called us yesterday, jet lagged out of her mind, asking what day it was. The pressure meant she didn't even know."

Before I could get my handkerchief out, however, Ms Doukas continues: "But the rewards are phenomenal, so they are bloody lucky. Given the choice between this and working in a pea factory in Cleveland, everybody would choose this life. In the end though, models want a nice home life and good relationships, just like everyone else. They won't be happy without that."



Kate Moss: hard life of endless travel and phenomenal rewards

In search of the beginning of time

Stephen Hawking, in the final extract from his new collection of essays, examines whether the laws of physics can determine how the universe began

THE problem of the origin of the universe is a bit like the old question: Which came first, the chicken or the egg? In other words, what agency created the universe, and what created that agency? Or perhaps the agency that created it, existed forever and didn't need to be created.

We observe that galaxies are all moving away from each other. If you take the present notion of the galaxies and run it back in time, it would seem that they should all have been on top of each other at some moment between ten and twenty thousand million years ago.

At this time, a singularity called the big bang, the density of the universe and the curvature of space-time would have been infinite. Under such conditions, all the known laws of science would break down. This suggests that science alone could not predict how the universe began. All that science could say is: "The universe is as it is now because it was as it was then. But science could not explain why it was as it was just after the big bang."

When I was a research student looking for a problem with which to complete my PhD thesis, I was interested in the question of whether there had, in fact, been a big bang singularity. Together with Roger Penrose, I developed a new set of mathematical techniques for dealing with this and similar problems. We showed that if general relativity is correct, any reasonable model of the universe must start with a singularity. This would

mean that science could predict that the universe must have had a beginning, but that it could not predict how the universe should begin. For that, one would have to appeal to God.

The general theory of relativity is what is called a classical theory. That is, it does not take into account the fact that particles do not have precisely defined positions and velocities, but are smeared out over a small region by the Uncertainty Principle of quantum mechanics. In order to discuss the beginning of the universe, we need a theory that combines general relativity with quantum mechanics.

That theory is quantum gravity. We do not yet know the exact form the correct theory of quantum gravity will take. However, certain features can be expected to be present in any viable theory. One is Einstein's idea that the effects of gravity can be represented by a space-time that is curved or distorted — warped — by the matter and energy in it. Objects try to follow the nearest thing to a straight line in this curved space. However, because it is curved their paths appear to be bent, as if by a gravitational field.

Another element that we expect to be present in the ultimate theory is Richard Feynman's proposal that quantum theory can be formulated as a "sum over histories". In its simplest form, the idea is that every particle has every possible path, or history, in space-time. For this idea to work, one has to consider histories that take place in imaginary time, rather than in the real time in which we perceive ourselves as living. Imaginary time may sound like something out of science fiction, but it is a well-defined mathematical concept. In a sense it can be thought of as a direction of time that is at right angles to real time. One adds up the probabilities for all the particle histories with certain properties, such as passing through certain points at certain times. One then has to extrapolate the result back to the real space-time in which we live. This is not the most familiar approach to quantum theory, but it gives the same results as other methods.

In the case of quantum gravity, Feynman's idea of a sum over histories would involve summing over different possible histories for the universe: that is, different curved space-times. These would represent the history of the universe and everything in it. One has to specify what class of possible curved spaces should be included in the sum over histories. The choice of this class of space determines what state the universe is in. If the class of curved spaces that defines the state of the universe included spaces with singularities, the probabilities of such spaces

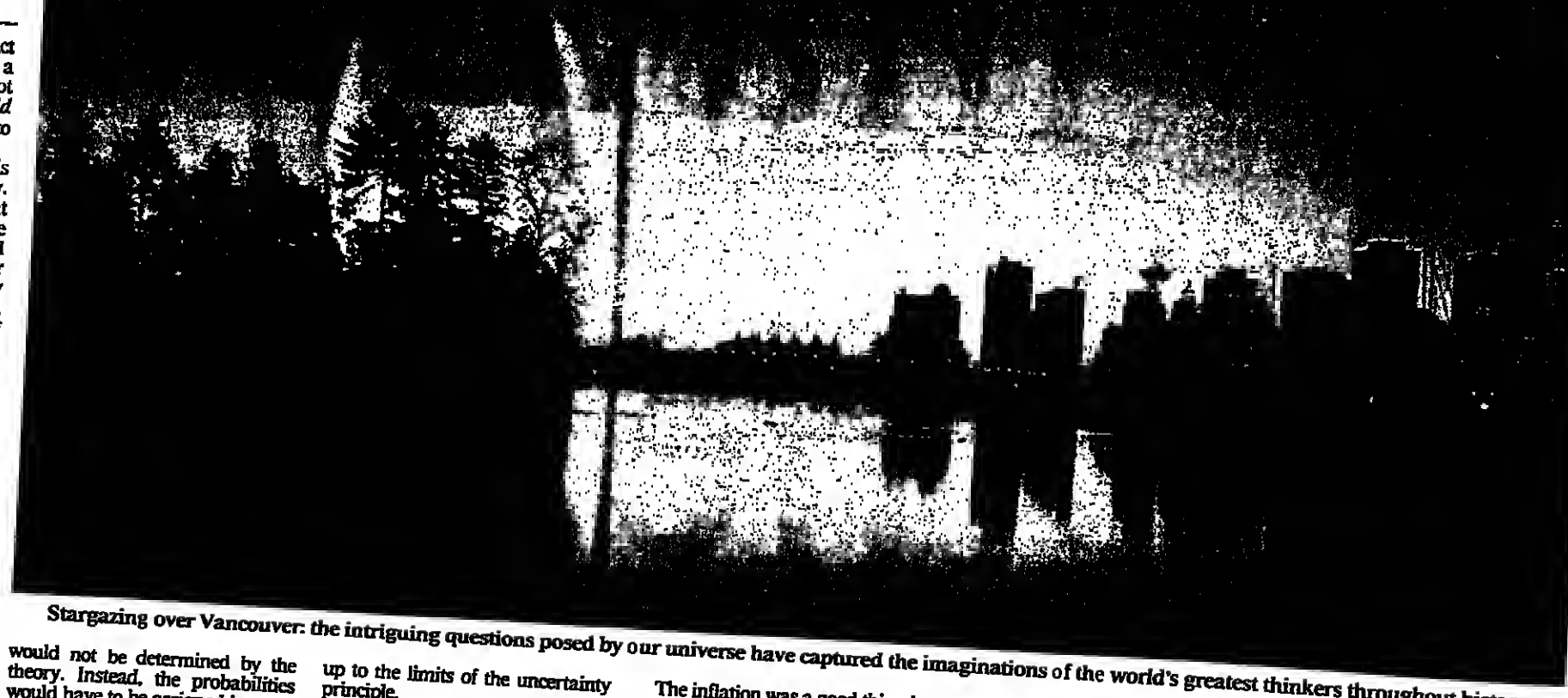
would not be determined by the theory. Instead, the probabilities would have to be assigned in some arbitrary way. What this means is that science could not predict the probabilities of such singular histories for space-time. Thus, it could not predict how the universe should behave. It is possible, however, that the universe is in a state defined by a sum that includes only nonsingular curved spaces. In this case, the laws of science would determine the universe completely: one would not have to appeal to some agency external to the universal to determine how it began.

In 1983, Jim Hartle and I proposed that the state of the universe should be given by a sum over a certain class of histories. This class consisted of curved spaces without singularities, which were of finite size but which did not have boundaries or edges. The proposal that Hartle and I made can be paraphrased as: The boundary condition of the universe is that it has no boundary. It is only if the universe is in this no-boundary state that the laws of science, on their own, determine the probabilities of each possible history. Thus, it is only in this case that the known laws would determine how the universe should behave. If the universe is in any other state, the class of curved spaces in the sum over histories will include spaces with singularities. In order to determine the probabilities of such singular histories, one would have to invoke some principle other than the known laws of science. This principle would be something external to our universe. We could not deduce it from within our universe. On the other hand, if the universe is in the no-boundary state, we could, in principle, determine completely how the universe should behave.

STEPHEN HAWKING



'Science may solve the problem of how the universe began, but it cannot answer the question: why does the universe bother to exist?'



Stargazing over Vancouver: the intriguing questions posed by our universe have captured the imaginations of the world's greatest thinkers throughout history

The inflation was a good thing in that it produced a universe that was smooth and uniform, on a large scale and was expanding at just the critical rate to avoid recollapse. The inflation was also a good thing in that it produced all the contents of the universe quite literally out of nothing. When the universe was a single point, like the North Pole, it contained nothing. Yet there are now at least ten-to-the-eightieth particles in the part of the universe that we can observe. Where did all these particles come from? The answer is that that relativity and quantum mechanics allow matter to be created out of energy in the form of particle/antiparticle pairs. And where did the energy come from to create this matter? The answer is that it was borrowed from the gravitational energy of the universe.

The universe has an enormous debt of negative gravitational energy, which exactly balances the positive energy of the matter.

During the inflationary period the universe borrowed heavily from its gravitational energy to finance the creation of more matter. The result was a triumph for Keynesian economics: a vigorous and expanding universe, filled with material objects. The debt of gravitational energy will not have to be paid until the end of the universe.

The early universe could not have been completely homogeneous and uniform because that would violate the uncertainty principle of quantum mechanics. Instead, there must have been departures from uniform density. The no-boundary proposal implies that these differences in density would start off in their ground state; that is, they would be as small as possible, consistent with the uncertainty principle. During the inflationary expansion, however, the differences would be amplified.

After the period of inflationary expansion was over, one would be left with a universe that was expanding slightly faster in some places than in others. In regions of slower expansion, the gravitational attraction of the matter would slow down the expansion still further. Eventually, the region would stop expanding and would contract to form galaxies and stars. Thus, the no-boundary proposal can account for all the complicated structure that we see around us. However, it does not make just a single prediction for the universe. Instead, it predicts a whole family of possible histories, each with its own probability.

The no-boundary proposal has profound implications for the role of God in the affairs of the universe. It is now generally accepted that the universe evolves according to well-

defined laws. These laws may have been ordained by God, but it seems that He does not intervene in the universe to break the laws. Until recently, however, it was thought that these laws did not apply to the beginning of the universe. It would be up to God to wind up the clockwork and set the universe going in any way He wanted. Thus, the present state of the universe would be the result of God's choice of the initial conditions.

The situation would be very different, however, if something like the no-boundary proposal were correct. In that case the laws of physics would hold even at the beginning of the universe, so God would not have had the freedom to choose the initial conditions. Of course, He would still have been free to choose the laws that the universe obeyed. However, this may not have been much of a choice. There may only be a small number of laws, which are self-consistent and which lead to complicated beings like ourselves who can ask the question: What is the nature of God?

And even if there is only one unique set of possible laws, it is only a set of equations. What is it that breathes fire into the equations and makes a universe for them to govern? Is the ultimate unified theory so compelling that it brings about its own existence? Although science may solve the problem of how the universe began, it cannot answer the question: Why does the universe bother to exist? I don't know the answer to that.

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Secrets of special forces behind enemy lines in the Gulf war are at last revealed



'I'll tell you who destroyed the Scuds — it was the SAS. They were fabulous'

John Major was the first to praise SAS heroism in the Gulf war. Michael Evans on a regiment coming out of the shadows

The SAS is coming out of the closet. For years the Special Air Service, the Army's most elite regiment, has been wrapped in a cloak of secrecy, its daring-do and courage hidden in obscurity, as part of a deliberate policy by the Ministry of Defence never to comment about special forces.

Although the ministry's policy has not changed, SAS men who have stories to tell are now speaking out. The latest case of shoot-and-tell comes from a Gulf war companion of the already celebrated Corporal "Chris", an SAS patrol leader who escaped from Iraq after enduring eight days without food and water in the most extreme weather conditions. His tale, which defies the imagination of us lesser mortals, has been hailed as one of the most extraordinary examples of human courage and survival in modern warfare.

The first account of the corporal's experience appeared in *Storm Command*, written by General Sir Peter de la Billière, the man who commanded the British forces in the Gulf and whose own legend as a former SAS commander is already writ large in the historical records at the regiment's headquarters in Hereford.

Sir Peter was determined to involve the SAS in action behind Iraqi lines, although there was initial reluctance on the part of his boss in the field, the American general, "Stormin'" Norman Schwarzkopf. After the war, the achievements of Britain's special forces units, which included the Royal Marines' Special Boat Service, were singled out for particular praise by the American general.

Normally that would have been it. But the tradition of secrecy began to break down. When John Major was told what the SAS had been up to, especially their role in destroying mobile Scud missile launchers that were liming up to attack Israel, he could not resist speaking about it. At a dinner in May 1991, he declared: "I'll tell you who destroyed the Scuds — it was the British SAS. They were fabulous."

Sir Peter was also determined that the wider public should know of the SAS's achievements in the Gulf war.

despite the long-standing agreement about the need for secrecy. While still in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, after the war was over, he spoke mystically about SAS exploits and gave a pledge that an account of some sort should be made public. Whitehall was resistant but the story was just too good to keep down.

The history of the SAS, especially their wartime inception under Colonel David Stirling, their service in Oman, their heroics during the Iranian embassy siege, their operations in the Falklands war and their hidden presence in Northern Ireland, have been well documented, although often with exaggerated Wild West descriptions which, while helping to promote their mystique, have done them no service: their alleged involvement in almost every scene of violent confrontation between the IRA and the security forces in Northern Ireland since 1976 being the most obvious example. One authoritative report said that of 78 IRA members killed between 1976 and 1987, 25 died at the hands of the SAS.

The Gulf war, however, presented the first chance in this era of supposedly more open government for the real courage and grit of Britain's special forces to become publicly and officially known. Mr Major's dinner-time revelations were followed by Sir Peter's book of the war, which included a whole chapter on Corporal "Chris" and his remarkable escape from 1,200 armed Iraqis who were searching the desert for him and seven of his SAS colleagues.

The story, recounted this week in greater detail in *Bravo Two Zero* (Bantam, £14.99) by Sergeant Andy McNab, a pseudonym, tells of eight SAS men behind Iraqi lines spotted by desert Arabs while looking out for mobile Scud missile launchers. Under fire from a truckload of Iraqi soldiers who suddenly appeared, the SAS men fought back, killing scores of Iraqis. While escaping, they became separated. Sergeant McNab and four others fought their way across the desert towards the Syrian border, often involved in firefights with Iraqi soldiers.

The Iraqis found Sergeant McNab



Sergeant Andy McNab, SAS man behind Iraqi lines and, top left, one of the Scuds he was out to immobilise

hiding in a ditch near the border and seized him.

Meanwhile, Corporal Chris and two others, wearing only desert combat overalls and their second world war smocks, had spent 12 hours in a ditch filled with icy water and had then staggered on, suffering from hypothermia, and dehydrated from the lack of drinking water.

By the time the ordeal was over, three of the original eight had died, two from hypothermia, one from a gunshot wound, and four had been captured. Corporal Chris, the only one to escape, walked more than 180 miles on two packets of biscuits and a sip of chemically polluted water and finally crossed the Syrian border to safety.

Sergeant McNab, 33, was tortured for a month before being released. Yesterday, he said he was taken to a police interrogation centre in Baghdad, where he was whipped and beaten with wooden planks and an aluminium ball on a chain, handcuffed and blindfolded. He said: "I also had a red-hot spoon rubbed over my raw,

open wounds, and part of a back tooth was pulled with pliers." He stuck to his story that he was part of a search-and-rescue team. He said: "If they'd known we were from the regiment, they would have killed us."

The extraordinary courage of these eight SAS men, which will no doubt be recounted again in Sir Peter's autobiography, to be published at Christmas, originates from their training. As explained in *The SAS of War* by Hugh McManners, a former army officer who went through the SAS selection course, the exercise is geared totally to individual effort. The aim is to select men who in war can be relied on to continue with a mission even when all the other members of their unit are dead, wounded or captured.

A whole range of weather conditions is provided in training on the Brecon Beacons in Wales. "It is," says Mr McManners, "an unforgiving environment." The last hurdle of the selection course is combat survival. Those who have survived so far, and many drop out, are given second world war uniforms, then set loose in remote countryside to be hunted by

police and soldiers with dogs and helicopters as they make their way between rendezvous with "agents" using a rough sketch map.

If captured, they suffer 24 hours of exposure to the elements and extreme discomfort in a prisoner-of-war cage before being released to continue. "After a week on the run," Mr McManners says, "they are taken to a holding centre, where expert interrogators use sophisticated techniques to induce or force candidates to give more than the name, rank and number that the Geneva conventions permit captors to demand."

The SAS memorial at Hereford, which bears the name of every man who has died on active service with the regiment, has the following inscription: *We are the Pilgrims, master, we shall go/Always a little further; it may be/Beyond that last blue mountain barred with snow/Across that angry or that glimmering sea...*

The memorial used to be under a clock which gave rise to the SAS expression "beating the clock" — avoiding having your name appear on the memorial... by surviving.

News addicts in 24-hour fix

Ben Macintyre listens to America's relentless 'infotainment' on radio

IN 1961, a rather eccentric but inspired American media entrepreneur named Gordon McLendon attempted an experiment by beaming a high-powered radio signal from Tijuana, Mexico, into Los Angeles. Unlike any other existing radio station, McLendon's XETRA English-language station promised to provide nothing but news.

It is strange to reflect, as Britain prepares for its first BBC all-news radio station next spring, that Americans have known this form of "infotainment", to use the contemporary jargon, for more than 30 years.

While Cable News Network (CNN) has become the drug of choice for the American news-junkie when sedentary, all-news radio is a useful fix for this particular addict outside the confines of the home.

Specifically in the car, while jogging, and in virtually every roadside bar and taxi in America. (I have a suspicion that many immigrant cab drivers in New York learn English this way, which may explain why they tend to talk with machine-gun rapidity, and in bursts.)

Most cities have at least one all-news radio station, the largest have several in competition and all follow a similar pattern: headlines, sports, traffic, weather and business news, delivered two or three times an hour.

In Britain listeners are used to a more sedate (and, arguably, in-depth) form of news delivery, and wait for it to come around rather than rushing out to meet it as it arrives. But the all-news format is fast-food information, and strangely hard to give up once tasted. It may not be particularly nourishing but it provides the sensation of immediate satisfaction.

American all-news radio offers the assurance of not missing a world development, be it the outbreak of war, an approaching cold front or an armed maniac at large on your route home. Listeners seldom learn why an event has happened, but always know it has occurred. That is enough.

"All news, all the time," goes the jingle on one station, repeated, mantra-like, every few minutes. "Give us 22 minutes, and we'll give you the world," a station says.

I vividly remember, about five years ago, having to wait

for many hours in a Greyhound bus terminal in New Mexico, where the public address system was tuned to news radio. It was a slow news day; nothing much was happening in New Mexico or anywhere, but I sat with my fellow passengers, wearing the misty expression of a hypnotised sheep, listening to an identical round of news every 20 minutes.

Finally, beginning to feel I had entered a time warp, I asked a Greyhound official whether we might hear some music — or just sleep. He looked scandalised, and said something rude about having to "keep up-to-date".

On very rare occasions, the all-news cycle of one or two sentences per news item is broken in honour of a particularly momentous event. It is then that the format comes into its own. During the initial days of Operation Desert Storm during the Gulf war, or the Los Angeles riots, most all-news radio stations offered round-the-clock coverage, minus advertisements, of the military manoeuvres and the LA looting, and ratings soared.

The demographics of all-news radio are intriguing. Few Americans under 35 listen to news radio, and the bulk of listeners is aged more than 55. Perhaps due to the still-growing popularity of CNN, the first international 24-hour news network, and the expense of retaining large numbers of reporters and presenters, the number of all-news radio stations is declining in the United States: in 1985 there were 50; now there are fewer than 30, many reliant on the large networks.

BUT WITH the speed of communications increasing, and American attention-spans daily diminishing, the all-news radio format continues to be one of the most lucrative in the US media business.

Robert Mulholland, former president of the NBC network and now a journalism professor at Northwestern University, asks: "Would you be totally informed if you listened only to news radio? Absolutely not. But it serves a function in giving you fast news, breaking news, convenient news."

Professor Mulholland told the *Chicago Tribune*: "The difference between the news cycles of radio, television and newspapers is this: on radio you can hear it now; on television, you can see it tonight; and in the newspaper you read it tomorrow."

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An old age of squalor and neglect

For want of a traditional home help, elderly people are forced to live in filth

"Sounds like paradise," sighed the old lady in the geriatric ward. Four others in beds near enough to hear the old man from Liverpool describing what his home help did for him sighed in unison. "Well, she Hoovers and does me the kitchen, and does me laundry once a week, and she'll change a light bulb if I ask her," he said. "Grand lass, she is. Aren't they like that in London?"

Three of the old ladies shook their heads grimly, one burst into tears, and the other one told him that if he knew what was good for him, he'd get back up North the moment the hospital let him out. Paradise? A world in which, if you're over 80, living alone and crippled both by arthritis and by weeping ulcerated legs, you get weekly visits from somebody who will do a little cleaning for you? Isn't that what home helps are for, after all? Not any more, it isn't. Liverpool is behind the times, as usual. Most local authorities have reorganised their home help service — sorry, their domiciliary care arrangements — right out of that sort of existence. Home helps — sorry,

care assistants — have no time for cleaning now. They are too busy targeting for "intensive personal services" the truly decrepit who would, until care in the community became the vogue, have been looked after in nursing homes. Since April, local authorities have had a duty under the National Health Service and Community Care Act to assess anyone who appears to need community care services. Those services may (not must, or even should) be provided after the official assessment.

What the official eye doesn't see, of course, is neither assessed nor cared for. In terms of sheer squalor, it can be deeply shocking. Four of the old ladies in that London hospital used to have home helps, but were not reckoned needy enough when the local service was reorganised two years ago. So no official eye saw them sink, over that time, into abject filth and the state of malnutrition that a diet of biscuits induces. A nurse described the condition of some of her patients when, having finally col-

lapsed and been unable to get up, they were admitted to hospital. It was like listening to the RSPCA inspector describing the grossly neglected animals on Reginald Ouliffe's farm in Gloucestershire. The farmer was held responsible, and was sent to prison for six months. These ladies, living alone, like 60 per cent of people over 80 in London, and in some degree crippled, like four out of five such people, were held responsible for themselves. Their families were busy, distant, uncaring, or nonexistent. So, by the time they got to hospital, they couldn't remember when they had last had a bath. They stank, and their clothes were stiff with grime. They looked much like tramps, but, not being homeless, they were invisible to the rest of the world behind their locked front doors.

The fifth old lady, a neighbour of mine, used to have a home help for two hours a

week, who even used to clean. Then came the reorganisation, and she was offered one hour's help a week. No cleaning, just a bit of shopping or collecting her pension. Oh, and it would be a different person each week, and no, the office couldn't say what time, even what day, the helper would come. My neighbour, who is a bit deaf, and has half the mobility of a geriatric snail, tried this arrangement for a fortnight. It meant virtually camping out in the hall so as to hear the door bell and reach it before the home help gave up and went away.

The girl who came the first week was frightened of the dog, and wouldn't come in. Nobody came the second week. The home help's office, unabashed, stressed that this was a discretionary service. My neighbour gave up after that, and was filed as "refusing services". She wouldn't let me complain. When she, too, eventually

collapsed and couldn't get up again, the ambulance driver refused to take her to hospital because she had broken no bones. He agreed she couldn't cope on her own, but said it was social services' affair, not his. I got fierce, he relented, and she has now been in hospital with the other old ladies for six weeks. The doctor said she was completely dehydrated when she arrived.

The old ladies I am talking about are not natural tramps. They were once fastidious people, dental assistants and beauticians back in their working years. They would not live in squalor by choice. But they have gradually become too frail to look after themselves properly. Too ashamed of the state of their homes to let anyone in, too conscious of their own degraded condition, and too weak physically to do more than merely exist.

They are not exceptional. Last year, Age Concern (Greater London) produced a report on domestic services for old people called, appropriately, *Swept Under The Carpet*. Nine hundred old



MARGOT NORMAN

When she, too, eventually

Alan Coren



■ A classic documentary celebrates its 30th anniversary

For five Sundays past, many of you will have sat sipping before your fireside while Dick Lester's series *Hollywood UK* celebrated 1960s British cinema. You were sitting not only before the resonant clips of *Room at the Top*, *Whistle Down the Wind*, *Saturday Night* and *Sunday Morning* and many another gritty mono-chromatic corker will have reminded you of the quondam splendour of our national cinema, but also because, even as these disparate goblets unspooled, similarly spasmodic sight-bites will have been playing elsewhere in your head. As, 30 years on, you once again watched Albert Finney asking Shirley Anne Field to meet him outside the Odeon, you simultaneously will have seen yourself outside the Odeon to meet the date you were taking inside to watch him asking it. At least, you think you will have seen yourself.

I wonder, I have just finished watching a 1963 British masterpiece in its entirety, and although I knew exactly what I was doing on the day it was shot (as one is supposed to with 1963), it transpires that I do not have the remotest idea. But first, the film. It is major. It manifests all the stunning innovative techniques of that golden era, often to the point of impenetrability. Quite how it escaped Lester's meticulous tawdry I do not know, unless it was because I possess the only print. I myself, mind, had not watched it for nigh on 30 years; but since tomorrow is its anniversary and it occurred to me to celebrate this with a private showing to a small, select audience, I dug it out today to ensure that it remained in projectable nick.

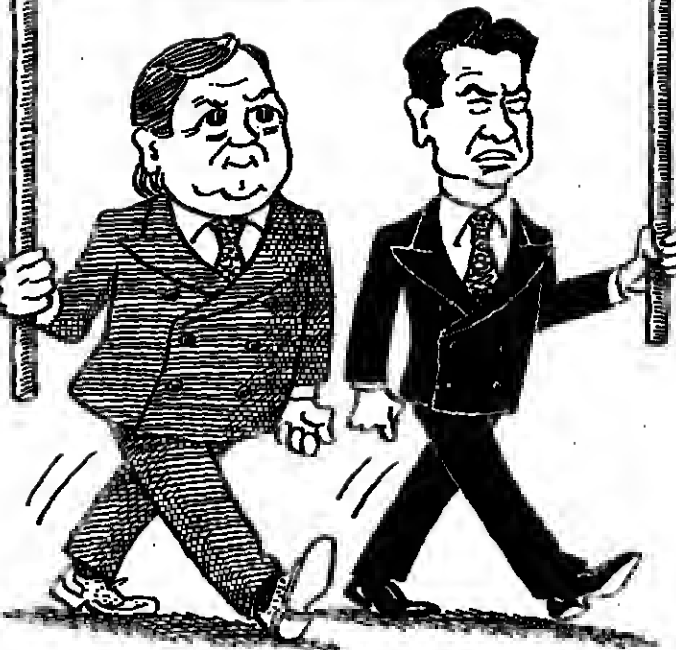
It is called *The Wedding of Mr and Mrs Core*. That is just one of the things I had forgotten about it. The film was waiting for us when we got back from our honeymoon, and I always meant to ring the *auteur* about the missing *n*, but I never got round to it. As the title was composed by sticking red magnetic letters to what looks like a fridge, it is possible the *n* was less magnetic than its siblings, but we shall never know, now. The title fades to reveal a garden gate, which opens mysteriously, or would do if you couldn't see an ear sticking out from behind it, and the camera then lurches down a path towards the front door of the future Mrs Core's pre-marital house, whereupon an unidentifiable figure darts from the garage, so briefly that we are not immediately sure whether we have seen him or not. This, remember, is a full three years before *Amorion* pinched the idea for *Blow-Up*.

Suddenly, we are inside, where the future Mrs Core and her mother, who are dressing, are telling the camera to go away. Since this is a silent movie, only lip-readers, sadly, will recognise the language as a milestone in cinema frankness. The scene now returns to the garden, and a front door opening fairly mysteriously to allow the future Mrs Core to exit just in time for a gust to lift the bridal veil prematurely from her face and snag it on a rose bush brown with seasonally shrivelled buds, a symbolic coup so daring that, had Bergman seen it at the time, he would undoubtedly have chuckled in the sponge.

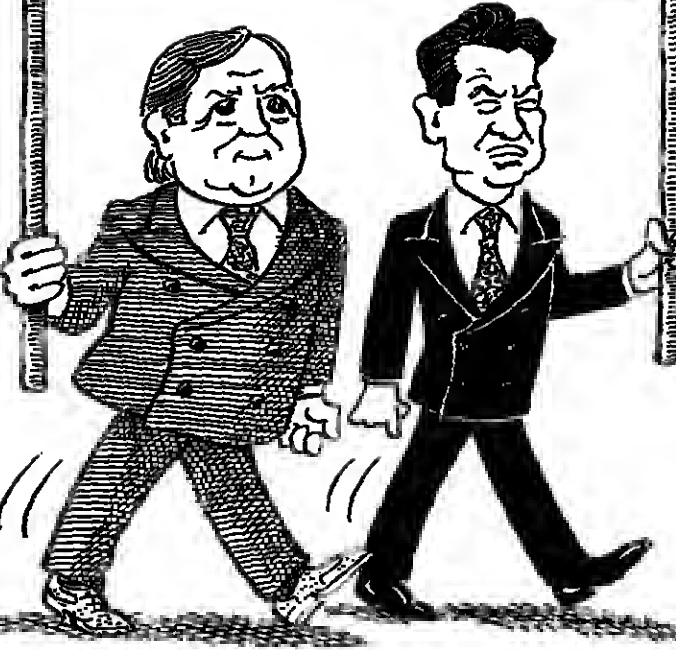
And, suddenly, a hundred drunks are dancing. Curiously flouting the convention of showing the Cores emerging from the ceremony by the mastery trick of leaving his camera in the car, the *auteur* cuts straight to the reception. The question is, whose? Watching it now, I am unable to recognise a single player among all these sideburned men and beehived women: we seem to have stumbled into an Englebert Humperdinck and Lulu lookalike contest, though the *leitmotiv* is maintained by their silently shrieking insistence that the camera go away. Clearly, this is a brilliant metafilmic device, just like the subtle *homage* to Mack Sennett represented by the motionless figure of Mr Core, standing pitifully alone in his baggy morning suit and staring at a cake on which he and his bride are depicted in miniature unity, even as, ironically, she dances by animatedly with a leering character in fashionable flares.

It goes on like this for an hour, until the poignant closing sequence of people stretched senseless on a lawn, which both evokes and trumps *Gone With the Wind*'s epic pan across the Atlanta dressing-station. A great film, then, and one for the cineaste's canon: but, to make my point, of what I myself was doing at the time I have no recollection whatever.

THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY



THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY



It's yesterday once more

So where do we go from here? John Major survived his "make or break" conference, but by means that leave a nasty taste in the mouth. The tool of his success was a rightward shift on social policy of the crudest kind. The pandering to Tory fundamentalism at Blackpool was as blatant as it was out of character. Ministers bathed in applause totered from the platform like sailors from a seaside brothel. They seemed delighted and bemused by what they had done, and by how good it felt. But had they done right?

I remember one of Lord Whitelaw's speeches as home secretary at a Tory party conference. He told the truth, he said there were no simple cures for crime. Hanging was no deterrent. Looking people up merely cost money and trained better criminals. The audience hissed him to the skies. He looked terrified. Afterwards, I accosted one of his tormentors. She told me it was a disgrace how ministers "went liberal" in office. They would not listen or tell the audience what it wanted to hear. She was furious. Then she paused. "But I rather respect him for it," she added.

Never was the dark side of a Tory conference more flattered than last week at Blackpool. But I wonder how much respect will be given in return. Margaret Thatcher's Conservative party was an alliance of free-marketisers and social libertarians. Neither was much in evidence at Blackpool. John Major blessed any attack on progressivism in every area of domestic policy, from John Patten, Michael Howard, Peter Lilley, David Hunt, Sir George Young, everybody. A letter in this paper yesterday from the Reverend Kenneth Leach said the impression was of a "lack of intellectual content... a discourtesy, contempt and xenophobia quite at odds with any understanding of tradition".

Is this to be the post-Thatcher Conservatism: not a radical ideology but a naïvely retrospective one? Does the cabinet really believe that there was once a moral Camelot, with nuclear families, thieves in stocks, single mothers in convents, bastards left on mountains? Mr Major seemed to believe so. "It is time to return to our roots. The Conservative party will lead this country back, across the board," he declared. We need to get back to "core values", to the old ways of teaching traditional subjects. He pleaded for more punishment, more "basic", more self-discipline, prison for pornographers, old commonsense British values.

When politicians start looking back to a rosier past, we can be certain that they have no vision of a better future

John Stuart Mill observed glumly that his fellow citizens seemed to carry their eyes in the back of their heads. Golden age theory is fine for platitudes, but makes poor history and dreadful policy. First you must pick the golden age. This is clearly a problem for Mr Major. He could not choose the 1980s too many hobnobbers claim there. The 1970s were a disaster. The 1960s were permissive and the root of the trouble. The 1950s were the best that might fit the bill, age of ministerial childhood, age of their parents' prime.

The 1950s rose like a genie from Mr Major's Blackpool bottle, years of post-war diligence, low divorce, Ealing comedies, press-button-B and wireless that you hit. Listeners might fancy they heard other echoes — of the British Empire, an all-white working class, crime-free streets, rote-learning, hanging and flogging. Those were the images of Mr Major's youth, before "fashionable opinion said the family was out of date... said the criminal was society's fault... did away with the old ways of teaching".

This is mob oratory of the worst sort. Mr Major surely knew it, and I have a suspicion his politely applauding audience knew it too. The shrewd politician may use the past as a base from which to assault the future. There is no harm in using the party conference to protect that base, ideologically as well as politically. But that is different from what happened at Blackpool. Mr Major's speech had the nostalgia of Charles Ryder revisiting Brideshead. He wandered through the cobwebbed plateaus, tripped over the timeworn clichés, sought redemption in the ghosts of the past. His thoughts were devoid of content. They had no future.

The Tory well appears to be dry of Thatcherite radicalism. We hear little of the liberating power of personal wealth, of the incentive virtues of privatisation, of markets and deregulation as cornerstones of stable growth. There were no

attacks in Mr Major's speech on professional closed shops and only mild contempt for Britain's growth industries such as finance, tourism, design and communications. These ought, said Mr Major, to be directing their best brains into manufacturing, an archaic distinction once confined to Labour policy.

Instead, ministers paraded the Tory party in its least attractive mode: lecturing the working class on personal morality. No single parent, no homeless teenager, no dole recipient, no immigrant refugee was free of a sneer from somebody on the platform. When Tories have grown bored with the grind of government — and bored they seem — they lapse into telling private citizens how to conduct their lives. It is a bad habit.

There may be couples who have divorced without a thought for their children — though I cannot believe there are many. There may be single mothers who do not adequately supervise their children. Some fathers may neglect their families. But to imply, oh so subtly, that these are the norm is grotesque. To go on to suggest that policy must be adapted to punish the few guilty even if it hurts the needy innocent is outrageous, and was rightly attacked by the Archbishop of Canterbury on Monday.

The judgment that puts single-parents beyond the pale of proper family life, implies that they are inadequate, somehow guilty, is an insult to thousands of parents, widowed as well as divorced, struggling to bring up their children conscientiously. Such sanctimoniousness is a measure of the insecurity and desperation of some in the Tory party. Guilty until proved innocent is a maxim foreign to both judicial and social policy in Britain. There were moments in Blackpool when both appeared at risk.

What ministers regard as social and moral degeneration I prefer to see as simply change, which will continue

however many ministers Mr Major appoints to fight it. More wives want to work, and husbands still find it hard to adjust to this. Relationships are perpetually under strain. Britons are richer, more mobile and better housed. This means less stable, less secure communities. The rough must be taken with the smooth, but I believe there is still far more smooth than rough.

Nostalgia is a dreadful guide to policy. Tory conferences in the 1950s mirrored 1950s Blackpool. Top was the crime wave, attributed to spivs and teddy-boys no longer subject to the discipline of war. Speakers then referred back to the honest labourers of the Depression and the "happiest of the Blitz". In terms identical to those of Mr Major, the 1950s party rejected the view of "sincere but misguided individuals, that society shares the guilt of its criminals". The "appalling rise in crime" allied to a "collapse in parental responsibility" required short-sharp-shock detention centres. R.A. Butler introduced them in 1958. After 20 years, Lord Whitelaw decided to do the same. Now Mr Howard has picked up the same baton.

Tory home secretaries need quick fixes, and packing the prisons is the quickest. Who cares whether they increase or decrease crime overall — every measure in the past decade seems to have increased it. Mr Major and Mr Howard have no cure for crime, only for the "tidal wave of concern" about it. Hence the stupidest motto in modern politics: understand less, punish more.

The 1950s were a time of post-war reconstruction and full employment. That stability can never be recaptured. Compared with today, the 1950s also experienced ill-health, bad housing, poverty, lack of opportunity for higher education, for travel, for leisure. To imply they were somehow better than today is elitist, blinkered and absurd. Dickens used to have a shelf of sham books in his library, entitled *The Wisdom of Our Ancestors*: each volume had a subtitle, Ignorance, Superstition, The Block, The Rack, Dirt, Disease. There is no golden age, except in the future. A politician who believes otherwise should not be trusted.

Whatever may have been Mrs Thatcher's defects, her politics were rooted in optimism, in a belief that the Britain of the 1990s could be made better than anything that went before. I find it sad to see her successors collapsing into the pessimism of "things aren't what they used to be", albeit out of desperation. Perhaps some of them are really rather ashamed.

Can the EC forgive Major?

Tory smugness is infuriating Europe, says George Brock

British ministers wear a jaunty air in Europe these days. "We are the party of Europe," said the bullish employment secretary David Hunt as he arrived in Luxembourg before yesterday's German constitutional court finalised the Maastricht treaty. Last week, Mr Hunt was sniping at Jacques Delors from the Tory party conference platform, safe in the knowledge that Europe's recent fiascos have forced the president of the European Commission into a diplomatic silence which ensures that he does not return fire.

John Major has joined in the fun. Like Shakespeare's Prospero, he has survived the tempest of Maastricht's ratification and now looks on federalism as "the baseless fabric of a vision", seeing the "cloud-capped towers, the gorgeous palaces, the solemn temples" of a united Europe as only an "insubstantial pageant faded". The prime minister deliberately escalated his attack just as the treaty was about to be released from its long bondage in national parliaments and courts. In a recent philippic in *The Economist*, Mr Major denounced EC summits devoted to discussing timetables for a single currency as having as much relevance to Europe's economic problems as a rain-dance.

Britain's partners have kept quiet, but in the chancelleries of continental Europe, bile and anger are rising. Mr Major's continental counterparts did not enjoy being passive spectators while Tory ministers with evidently scant belief in the Maastricht treaty struggled to push it through a sullen and volatile House of Commons. They bit their tongues while Mr Major and Mr Hurd cheerfully helped the Danish government to eviscerate the treaty to get it ratified in Denmark.

Mr Major is caught in a paradox. Things are going his way in Europe, but he is loathed for having the tide of events on his side. The closer he gets to the heart of the European debate, the less he is liked. Chancellor Kohl feels betrayed; he protected Mr Major from humiliation at Maastricht and reckons he has been repaid with nothing but trouble from Britain. The rapport between London and the centre-right government in Paris has faded.

However, other friendships are also souring: the long and intimate link between France and Germany, which has been the basis of so many successful coalitions in the EC, is also under strain. At a dinner last year, I listened to an English visitor ask a senior Eurocrat how he saw Britain's strategy in Europe. "It's quite simple," replied the official, "they are trying to replace the Franco-German marriage. They can't do it: that's a relationship which will last a hundred years." Considering the turbulence of European politics in the past five years, the prediction was daft. But the language vividly captures the poisonous jealousies released by the violent shaking of Europe's post-war system.

Mr Major's advisers believe that they have successfully "repositioned" the prime minister in Europe. He is now being marketed as a present-day General de Gaulle, ready to talk pro-European jargon for tactical reasons, but zealous and efficient in his pursuit of Britain's national interest. This campaign is designed to keep Euro-sceptics at home at bay while convincing Britain's EC neighbours that the government will always try to find an agreement in Brussels.

This balancing act is about to go horribly wrong. A deep philosophical gulf still separates Britain from the political culture and historical experience of continental Europe. Mr Major and his ministers have won themselves time, but this will be wasted if they do not lead the discussions about the future of Europe's institutions — both those of the Community and also Nato.

Does the government believe in no further supra-national integration in Europe, in no further transfer of power to the centre? If that is what Mr Major thinks, he should, for consistency, be arguing for removal from the EC of powers which he thinks should never have been surrendered in the first place. Does he believe that any social legislation should come from Brussels? If not, why are his ministers arguing about the small print of "European works council" and directives on "atypical work"? Does Britain have any prescription for preventing more Bosnian-style conflicts? Mr Major's neighbours see a prime minister who is agile and adaptable but does not address their concerns.

Yet Britain must address Europe's concerns, because our economic interests are tied up in an EC political superstructure in which we are uncomfortable. All European policy is therefore compromise of some sort. At the moment, Mr Major's most important compromise is with his own party, and in pacifying his Euro-sceptics he has stored up trouble in Brussels, Bonn and Paris.

The original compromise which formed the European Community was a close-knit merger of French and German policy-making, designed to forestall another war between them. Politicians who threaten to unravel that bargain confront France and Germany with the primordial fear of destabilising the peace of the post-war era. Unless Mr Major can find both ideas and language which soothe these anxieties and which also promote his own aims, he will make few durable alliances. Margaret Thatcher cared little about allies in Europe — and lived to regret it.

They just clicked

TWO CELEBRATED veterans of the anti-apartheid movement were in London on Monday night, but sadly not together. Nelson Mandela, in Britain to promote international trade with South Africa, was a notable absentee from the launch party for Helen Suzman's memoirs, *In No Uncertain Terms*.

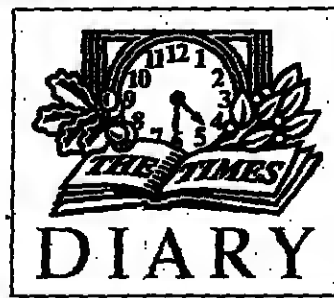
Mandela and Suzman have been friends since the 1960s, when Suzman visited him on Robben Island and earned his gratitude by securing the removal of one particular guard with a fondness for sporting the swastika. But Mandela's absence from Suzman's soirée was readily explained. He was at a fundraising dinner for next year's elections. "It was arranged before we knew anything about the Suzman book-launch," says an ANC spokesman. Despite her friend's absence, Suzman was in the sort of uncompromising form that has characterised her 40-year fight against apartheid. Lawyers had advised her that the book contains no fewer than 43 libellous statements. "But I've kept them all in," she says. Among the guests were Suzman's daughter Janet, Lord

Chief Justice Taylor and Donald Woods, biographer of the activist Steve Biko. Woods too had been looking forward to a chat with Mandela, saying that his extended exile is having a disastrous effect on his spoken Xhosa. "You don't get much practice in this place," he says, complaining that his tongue is now clicking awkwardly in the vernacular. Mandela, of course, clicks fluently — as a prince of the Xhosa tribe should.

Infra dig?

WHEN Margaret Thatcher signed the Anglo-French treaty with President Mitterrand to dig the Channel tunnel, seven years and £9 billion ago, she confided a deeply felt ambition to travel on the first train. Alas, she was deposed a few days before the breakthrough beneath the waves. So will her successor be making the trip in her place? Apparently not.

On May 6, it will be the Queen rather than John Major who accompanies President Mitterrand at the inauguration. With Eurotunnel promising "a phased opening" (freight services begin in March), ministers and other VIPs



Off the air

WITH the benefit of hindsight, it was an unfortunate fortnight for the Radio 5 press officer to disappear on holiday. But the BBC insists that Wendy Taylor's decision to begin her annual leave on Monday was entirely coincidental.

Taylor has at least been spared the sight of an ever-growing number of media lobbyists jockeying for position on the airwaves. Not only do we have campaigns to save Radio 4, save Radio 5 and bring back LBC, there is even a campaign to save "whispering" Bob Harris, the Old Grey Whistle Test veteran who is currently threatened by Radio 1's purge of the over-40s.

"I don't recognise most of the people talking about the changes," says Neil MacKinnon, the Winchester schoolmaster who founded the Save Radio 4 Campaign. "There were two people speaking on the radio about Radio 4 today whom I'd never heard of."

Sotheby's was confident of impressive takings yesterday on the first day of the Thurn and Taxis sale in Bavaria, in which Gloria, the former "punk princess", raised more than £1.4 million from selling unwanted family chattels. As an aperitif, the auctioneer had

sold 13,000 brochures. At £25 each, that worked out at £325,000 before the gavel was even raised.

Chance in a million

THOSE who believe John Major's election victory was nothing short of a miracle may be disappointed to find that he has not taken the opportunity to reveal how he did it in his foreword to *Was It A Miracle?*, published by Partridge Blacker for the Sharon Allen Leukaemia Trust.

Major pens the foreword, but leaves the miracle stories to others, among them Jeffrey Archer, Dame Barbara Cartland, Max Bygraves and poet laureate Ted Hughes. Hughes recalls composing a

poem in Cambridge one freezing winter, based, he says on the feeling that a caged jaguar might experience should an insect fly up his nostril and bite him. Just as the appropriate turn of phrase occurred to him (the poem, perhaps unsurprisingly, never made it into print), a bluebottle flew into the room and disappeared up Hughes's own nostril. A bluebottle in January? Not a miracle, concedes Hughes, but surely "more than coincidence".

Professional foul?

THOSE who accompany the prime minister on his eventual trip through the Channel tunnel will be hoping that his luck will have changed by then. For hot on the heels, as it were, of son James breaking his ankle during a football match comes news that Gus O'Donnell, his popular and mild-mannered press secretary, has suffered a similar fate.

O'Donnell, a mainstay of the Old Salesians — the team of his old Bantersea comprehensive — was brought down by a tackle from behind. His antagonist sprang from the Royal Bank of Scotland, the bank which can never say no to the overdrawn treasurers of the Conservative party. Coincidence, of course.





BEYOND MAASTRICHT

The rescue of the "European idea" must now begin

Germany has spoken at last. On November 1, ten months late, the Treaty on European Union will enter into force. Relieved politicians across the European Community are treating yesterday's ruling by the German constitutional court as the end of a potholed stretch of road which all of them, with reason, dreaded the thought of being forced to travel again. Yet they could easily find themselves retraversing it, unless they now concentrate on the political and economic tasks that really matter to their publics.

The Belgian presidency, confirming that a special EC summit will definitely now take place on October 29, talks of "relaunching Europe". The German foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, conceding that politicians have failed "to convince people about this Maastricht Europe" concludes that their priority must be "to catch up on that now." But this is wholly to misread the nature of the public backlash against Maastricht. The treaty is widely seen to be alien to national traditions and political cultures, and resented for putting political dogma before the prosperity of ordinary citizens. Political plans to "build" on this road map should be firmly signposted "roadworks ahead".

Maastricht is a treaty outworn before purchase, framed for a few rich countries that, in John Major's own words, form "but a fragment of Europe"—and so rigid that its implementation would almost certainly divide the continent by excluding the rest from the club. The best argument for ratifying such a flawed treaty has always been that it would free politicians to plan for a different "Europe", one based on forms of co-operation sufficiently flexible to accommodate the new democracies to the east, and sufficiently free of bureaucratic rigidities to make the most of the single market.

A year's upheavals in EC currency markets have saved the politicians from themselves by revealing the truth about monetary union, the treaty's core commitment. This is that even for the relatively prosperous, sticking to the EMU timetable would guarantee an economic depression so deep that it endangered social stability. The best insurance against economic suicide by governments which cannot adjust their sights to economic reality is that, as Germany's finance minister, Theo Waigel,

emphasised yesterday, Germany will not accept any dilution of the "convergence criteria" for EMU. Meeting them would mean halving government deficits across the EC. However desirable fiscal rectitude may be in itself, forcing the pace when unemployment is heading for an average 12 per cent of the workforce would be folly.

Mr Major irritated his EC colleagues last month by saying in *The Economist* that for the EC to recite the old EMU mantra this month as though nothing had changed would "have the quaintness of a rain dance and about as much potency". But he is not alone: the new Bundesbank chairman, Hans Tietmeyer, refuses pointblank to "act as central bank for the whole of Europe". Such plain speaking is overdue, and Herr Waigel's airy assertion yesterday that there is nothing legally binding about Maastricht's 1999 deadline for monetary union should inspire relief, not dismay.

The British government is suddenly affecting enthusiasm for the other dimension of Maastricht, a "common foreign and security policy". If the motive is to create some sort of variant on the old European balance of power in order to tie Germany down, that is likely to prove an illusion. Yesterday's revelation that Bonn is secretly negotiating with Iran's security services, in clear violation of agreements at last December's Edinburgh summit, is yet another sign that the Germany of the future will increasingly go its own way, treaty or no treaty.

Recession, coupled with doubts about Maastricht, has given European cohesion a bad name. At this month's summit, the rescue of a good idea must begin. The clear priority must be to grab the last chance for a Gatt deal to liberalise world trade. The next task—and a key test for subsidiarity—is to free up labour markets and untangle the single market from red tape. Maastricht must not be allowed to obstruct the expansion of the community to around 24 states. That means a more flexible community in which membership expands freedoms and economic opportunities. Selling such a vision, when politicians have sacrificed so much credibility over Maastricht, will be hard. The design of this new and different kind of Europe cannot wait until 1996: it must begin now.

GENETIC GOLDMINE

Needless laws must not stifle genetic enterprise

Ever since the discovery, no more than 20 years ago, of methods for manipulating the genes of living things, the subject has been used by critics of science as a means of curdling the public's blood. The first concerns, legitimate at the time, were that genetically-engineered organisms would escape and run amok, threatening environmental disaster on an alarming scale. This was followed by more philosophical worries, such as whether the nature of man himself would be threatened by the new knowledge. Should we patent life, or create a genetic databank to aid in the detection of crime? Were human beings strong enough to know the truth about their own genes, and what they foretold in terms of life expectancy? Seldom have so many hares been set running quite so swiftly in quite so short a time.

Not all these ethical questions are negligible, by any means. But many of the practical fears of genetic engineering have been dispersed by growing knowledge and experience. Unfortunately, the mills of legislation grind more slowly than those of science, and many of the regulations covering the use of gene manipulation were drafted on unreasonably gloomy assumptions. In an admirably confident report, the House of Lords select committee on science and technology today urges that costly and time-wasting regulations, many of them

made in Brussels, must be swept away if the promises of gene manipulation are not to be stifled at birth.

The worst feature of the present regulations is that they deal with process, and not with product. What we need to know about is genetically-engineered tomatoes, not how it was created, but whether it is safe to eat. So long as that criterion is satisfied, there is no justification for worrying any more about its origins than we do about the parentage of vegetables bred by traditional methods. Yet today the European Commission in Brussels is continuing to work on directives designed to control the means of production: all such work should cease forthwith, the Select Committee declares. Nor, they say, should genetically-engineered food be obliged to bear its heart upon its sleeve in the form of a label describing it as such.

In a society becoming increasingly risk-averse, it is good to hear such a ringing defence of new technology. The opportunities for genetic manipulation in agriculture, in the production of pharmaceuticals, and in medical treatment are enormous, and unlikely to be overlooked by competitors in America and Japan. If Europe is to recover lost time, it cannot afford regulations that protect nobody. The government should accept the Lords' report, and set about implementing it without delay.

FIZZ AND CHIPS

Schools should not encourage their pupils to feast on junk

School meals have improved since the days when poor Eton scholars would roast rats to supplement their diet. But they have deteriorated since 1980 when government guidelines on nutritional requirements were abolished. Now half of all children bring their own food to school and most of the rest feast on burgers and chips from school canteens. To cap it all, schools are now succumbing to financial inducements to install vending machines selling fizzy drinks, crisps and chocolate.

Head teachers, under increasing pressure to boost their revenues, have been told that they can earn their schools up to £1,000 a year by installing these machines. Half-yearly by already done so, receiving an immediate lump sum from the food or drink company plus a percentage of sales.

Some parents do not care what their child eats, and are quite happy to pack a lunch box for them. Others mind a lot, and for them the school is supposed to cook and provide the sort of food that would normally be eaten at home. They work hard to persuade their children to abide by rules for sensible eating; and they expect the school to do the same. Meals are part of the discipline of life. Table manners are taught by many parents at an early age; and the etiquette of social intercourse is best learnt when a family sits down together at table. If children are allowed to snack all day—when they are not allowed to eat at all—then their "graze" at their food—they will not have the appetite for a proper lunch or dinner. And

what children eat at those meals is now thought to affect their health for life.

Every week the average British child consumes three portions of chips, four packets of crisps, six cans of soft drinks, seven bars of chocolate or other sweets, 42 biscuits and seven puddings. According to a survey by Newcastle University, the number suffering from obesity has doubled in ten years. Yet many of the diet-related processes that lead to illness in adulthood, such as heart disease and some cancers, begin in early life. Thickening of the arteries, for instance, can be seen in children under ten.

Nutritional guidelines for school meals were introduced in the 1940s, when bad diet due to poverty and rationing was a real social problem. They were scrapped in 1980 because school lunches were no longer reckoned to be the only good meal many children would eat. Yet a survey conducted for Gardner Merchant in 1991 found that one in six children—over 500,000 nationally—had no hot meal at home in the evening.

Schools which have abdicated all responsibility for healthy eating and are tempted to install vending machines will argue that they are only attracting revenue that would otherwise have been spent at the local shop. But as any religious education teacher will attest, there are sins of omission and sins of commission. To turn a blind eye to the odd packet of crisps brought in from outside is one thing; to profit from the sale of junk food and sweet, fizzy drinks is another.

Wrong message to Commonwealth?

From Sir David Hunt and others

Sir, As persons actively concerned with the Commonwealth Institute over the past 20 years we should like to express our regret at the termination of its grant-in-aid from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (report, September 22). We should like to see a much greater British interest in the Commonwealth, and a much firmer foundation for Commonwealth activity in this country.

When the aims and objectives of the Commonwealth Institute were revised and agreed by all concerned in 1987, following a policy review, the institute was seen as being a visible expression of the continuing commitment to the Commonwealth by Britain and by the other Commonwealth governments that contributed to the institute's work. We therefore fear that the recent FCO announcement, coming so shortly before the Commonwealth summit in Limassol, which begins on October 18, will be interpreted abroad as a turning away from the Commonwealth.

It is surely unwise for a trading nation, with a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, to send out such a message to 49 friendly countries, whose political and economic significance to Britain far outweighs a small cost-cutting exercise.

We think it necessary to mount a further review to clarify the situation. This should take account of Commonwealth-related activities throughout the United Kingdom, and the future of the Commonwealth Trust and the Institute of Commonwealth Studies as well as the future of the Commonwealth Institute and its valuable Kensington exhibition site.

Finally, we should like to pay tribute to the work of staff of the institute. Handicapped by uncertainties of policy and diminishing real resources, they have nevertheless kept alive British consciousness of an ideal, and of a valuable association. It has not been easy.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID HUNT
(Chairman of Governors of the Commonwealth Institute, 1974-84),
JOHN WILLIAMS
(Chairman of Governors, 1984-7),
JAMES PORTER
(Director and Director-General, 1978-91),
RICHARD BOURNE
(Deputy Director, 1983-9),
Old Place, Lindfield, West Sussex,
October 11.

Kathmandu disaster

From Mrs Dawn Statham and Mrs Jo Peverley

Sir, Although we welcomed Tony Dawe's article (September 28) on the Pakistan International Airlines disaster a year ago at Kathmandu in which our children perished, we would like to point out that, far from being offered £13,600 compensation as the accompanying news report stated, no compensation has been offered by PIA. Equally, it has made no provision for expenses incurred by the bereaved families.

Even in the event of compensation being forthcoming there is apparently, as the law stands, such stringent definition of the nature of "dependency" that only a minority of bereaved families can expect to receive any substantial sum of this limited figure.

Those of us whose loved ones were not identified and for whom there is no grave in England feel drawn to return, as long as we are able, to the memorial garden in Nepal to pay our respects to our dead. This alone involves considerable expense: none of us are wealthy.

Our sole concern over compensation is that PIA make it possible for us to return to Nepal as long as we are able to undertake this arduous journey, the concept of compensation remains totally inadequate in the face of our profound loss.

Yours faithfully,
DAWN STATHAM,
JO PEVERLEY,
11 Millfield Crescent,
Northallerton, North Yorkshire,
October 9.

The cost of living

From Mr Geoffrey V. Baker

Sir, With reference to Anatole Kaletsky's article, "Clarke's easy way out of the public deficit nightmare" (*Economic View*, October 7), how the devil does he think that those of us who rely on investment income and do not have an index-linked pension are going to be able to manage if interest rates are reduced by even 1 per cent, let alone 2 per cent?

Many other readers must have the same problem, intensified by the government's clear intention to keep VAT on domestic fuel.

For my part, if the basic interest rate is reduced I shall certainly cease to be a member of the Conservative party.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY V. BAKER,
Stonehaven,
Fulford, Norfolk,
October 10.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number—071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

The dictionary definition of Jesus

From the Rector of Hawkwell

Sir, It is true that "the function of dictionaries is to record language as it is used" (leading article, October 9). They must therefore refer to the various ways in which the name of Jesus is used.

However, *The New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* has an unbalanced definition which appears to reveal bias on the part of the editors. On the one hand, although it helpfully records for the first time that Jesus is Jewish, the only other generally accepted fact it can muster to describe his life is that he is a "preacher". In its modern usage that word is woefully inadequate to describe the profound theological, moral and prophetic teaching of Christ, which arguably has had more influence on the human race than the teaching of any other individual.

On the other hand, the definition contains several examples of blasphemous usage, including a gratuitous quotation, which will be deeply offensive to many Christians.

Is it not possible for a dictionary to refer to such sensitive matters with greater care and restraint?

Yours faithfully,
TONY HIGTON,
The Rectory, Hawkwell,
Hockley, Essex,
October 9.

From Mr E. B. Totman

Sir, Your leader emphasises with the "inoffensive" lexicographer. What is his task? It surely cannot be gleefully to record every vulgar phrase in use, no matter how derogatory or offensive. "Dictionaries" of catchwords, slang phrases and petty blasphemies are published for the benefit of those who need to know.

The *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* has been an authoritative and responsible work of reference when seeking a reliable definition of a word or phrase. Nowhere, until now, were gutter phrases or the cheap expressions of the inarticulate dignified by definition.

Trainee solicitors' pay

From Mr J. S. Pamar

Sir, A student who completes the legal practice course, after having spent £5,000 in course fees, is left with a totally useless piece of paper unless he or she already has an offer of a training contract from a firm of solicitors. The Law Society, it seems to me, is more than happy to increase the number of students entering the profession but has little regard for them on qualification.

The huge number of young lawyers seeking training contracts could be cut at a stroke by abolishing the minimum salary stipulation (letters, September 27, October 1, 8). Firms would then be free to take on trainees without incurring huge costs.

Indeed, there are many students (including myself) who would work for nothing, so as to be able to complete their training and call themselves qualified solicitors.

Yours faithfully,
J. S. PAMAR,
5 Sidney Avenue, N13.

Building defects

From Mr Geoffrey McLean

Sir, Mr N. S. Macgregor (letter, October 1) says that at the time of planning of Manchester's Hulme estate "there was no general appreciation of the drawbacks of such design; no party can fairly be blamed".

On the contrary, there was plenty of evidence in Sweden, Denmark and France of the very drawbacks that have now become painfully evident here, and this was appreciated fully by private housebuilders at the time. Almost all the multi-storey buildings in Britain were sponsored by the then socialist government, and built by mainly socialist councils. It was not even economic.

The excess costs of multi-storey construction were only possible under a

distorted subsidy regime which made them apparently economic. Meanwhile, private housebuilders were castigated for building sub-Parker-Morris standard boxes. It was no use pointing out that our houses were occupied on average by fewer than three people, while council houses and flats were allocated to five people.

At least our houses have turned out to be good investments, while the contemporary council high-rise flats are being demolished.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY McLEAN,
(President, House Builders Federation, 1967-8),
The House in the Trees,
Wightwick Bank,
Wolverhampton, West Midlands,
October 5.

In elevating phrases like "Jesus wept" and "Jesus freak" to its new edition a disservice has been done to the English language and to the once respected name of the Oxford University Press. Perhaps the move has more to do with securing a place on the shelves alongside the pulp novelists than maintaining the standard of selective research which has characterised the work in the past.

Yours faithfully,
E. B. TOTMAN,
91 The Green, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey,
October 10.

From Mrs C. MacDonald-Haig
Sir, I am a little surprised that your leader did not comment on the fundamental error in *The New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary's* definition of Jesus.

That He was "a Jewish preacher" is indisputable. But it was He, and not in the first instance His followers, who claimed to be the Son of God incarnate.

I do commend John's gospel to the dictionary's two general editors; even the most cursory reading of chapter 5, where He makes His tremendous claim, will confirm this truth.

I am, yours faithfully,
CAROLINE MacDONALD-HAIG,
51 Rylett Crescent, W12,
October 9.

From Professor P. D. J. Weitzman

Sir, As Jesus was indisputably both Jewish and a preacher, it is hard to understand why a senior member of the General Synod should find the combined appellation "rather derogatory" (report, October 9).

Contrary to popular misconception, Jewish preachers have become a rare breed, and those attracting followers even rarer. Seen from my corner of the world, the term is currently a compliment of messianic proportions.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WEITZMAN,
41 Hollybush Road, Cardiff,
October 9.

From Mr T. H. Richardson

Sir, As an articled clerk, 1930 vintage, may I relate the conditions of my clerkship.

My father was expected to find a premium of £250 (perhaps £5,000 in today's money) together with a stamp duty of £80 on the articles. For my part, I was expected to work with no salary whatsoever (although I did actually receive a total of £15 in Christmas boxes over the five-year period of my articles).

All my studying for my professional and university examinations was by homework in my spare time as I could not afford the fees for law school or university.

These difficulties did not make me feel aggrieved, however. On the contrary, I felt privileged to work and learn my trade with a very fine firm of solicitors.

How attitudes have changed!
Yours sincerely,
T. H. RICHARDSON,
White Gables, Swainby,
Northallerton, North Yorkshire,
October 1.

distorted subsidy regime which made them apparently economic. Meanwhile, private housebuilders were castigated for building sub-Parker-Morris standard boxes. It was no use pointing out that our houses were occupied on average by fewer than three people, while council houses and flats were allocated to five people.

At least our houses have turned out to be good investments, while the contemporary council high-rise flats are being demolished.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY McLEAN,
(President, House Builders Federation, 1967-8),
The House in the Trees,
Wightwick Bank,
Wolverhampton, West Midlands,
October 5.

Rude awakening

From Miss Cyrrhian Macrae

Sir, I feel I should set the record straight for readers of Mrs Angela Kilmartin's letter (October 7). During freshers' week, one of the students' union activities at this university is to offer advice, from sensible eating to budgeting, from sensible rights to the importance of safe sex.

Amongst the leaflets and information available for students to pick up (voluntarily) were condoms. We are fortunate in having a students' union that takes its educative and supportive role so seriously.

Yours faithfully,
CYRRHIAN MACRAE
(Head of Public Relations and Marketing Unit),
Coventry University,
Priory Street, Coventry.

From Mr Alan Bancroft

Sir, How justified Mrs Kilmartin's sense of outrage was, she knows "the reasons for condoms": she knows, too (as others seem not to) the arguments for chastity and also what propriety in an academic establishment means.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BANCROFT,
26 Old Broadway,
Withington, Manchester 20.

Insurance policies that fail the test

From Councillor Derek Lewis

Sir, Mr R. M. Napier (letter, September 30) highlights the fact that few of us paying premiums for household insurance can be sure that we have the cover we believe we have.

My own insurance company has just dug down to page 28 of its policy book and informed me that I shall get nothing for a robbery by a sneak thief who got in while a side door was open. The claim amounted to £1,000 for my wife's and daughter's jewellery and some clothing, and we had bent over backwards to be reasonable.

I know the companies must try to make up for bad years, and that current lawlessness will inevitably raise the cost of protection, but there is no excuse for encouraging trust in policies that offer virtually nothing.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK LEWIS,
4 Campbell Road, Hanwell, W7,
October 1.

From the Insurance Ombudsman

Sir, Mr Napier concludes his letter by saying that many people do not have the financial strength to challenge their insurer's decision to repudiate claims.

This need not be the case. If the insurer is a member of the Insurance Ombudsman Bureau, an aggrieved policyholder can make an application to the bureau free of charge. In reaching a decision, as ombudsman, I would have regard not only to the law but also to good insurance practice.

The judge's ruling in a recent contract law case provided that if one condition in a set of printed conditions is particularly onerous or unusual, the party seeking to enforce it must show that it was fairly brought to the attention of the other party. I apply this "attention test" and have concluded in some cases that it would not be fair and reasonable for the insurer to rely upon a particular condition or exclusion.

Clearly, each case must turn on its own facts, but the basic principle is that insurance contracts require both parties to demonstrate utmost good faith.

Yours sincerely,
JULIAN FARRAND,
Insurance Ombudsman,
The Insurance Ombudsman Bureau,
City Gate One, 135 Park Street, SE1,
October 7.

From Mr R. A. Leigh

Sir, Mr Napier is correct in his understanding that insurance contracts are contracts "of the utmost good faith". He should also be aware, however, that, as a matter of general contract law, an exclusion clause which appears for the first time in the policy document, and therefore after the conclusion of the contract of insurance, cannot be binding.

Furthermore, in the case of consumer insurance contracts, the Insurance Ombudsman tends to take a dim view of insurers who rely on unattractive policy defences, even when those defences are, as a matter of strict law, valid.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. LEIGH,
Hill Taylor Dickinson (solicitors),
Irongate House, Duke's Place, EC3,
October 1.

Missing names

From Mr D. W. Taylor

Sir, Your correspondent, a Cyril (letter, September 30, also letters, October 2), is a victim of linguistic degradation. He and, a fortiori, Cecil, suffer from the softly sensuous, soporific cissy sibilation that has belated the consonant that had a ruggedly virile K sound in the classical languages. Even Simon is not exempt from the subconscious feminine connotations that such soft sounds suggest: lispings mockery invites itself.

Yours,
DAVID TAYLOR,
The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, SW1.

From Mr Stephen Pimenoff

Sir, When I taught at Benenden School in the late 1970s the Christian names of the six house mistresses were Cynthia, Maureen, Nancy, Rosemary, Barbara and Joyce. As I recall, not a single girl, out of nearly 400, had any of those names.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN PIMENOFF,
3 Naughton Terrace,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Manners in church

From Mr Neil McShane

Sir, As a steward at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Dedham, I welcome many tourists and sometimes have to ask men to remove their hats (Mr Irons's letter, October 7). I wonder how he would have handled the young man, wired for sound, I met this summer with his baseball cap askew, wearing no shirt, licking an ice cream and leading a mangy dog on a string. I gathered he thought I was being unreasonable.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL McSHANE,
Frogmeadow, Brook Street,
Dedham, Essex.

moderation prevented the reception from being on a larger scale.

After the formal reception a cold luncheon was served in the grounds. Lavish hospitality was extended to the marines and the bluejackets, who to the number of about 1,000 were dressed in brown uniforms with special train from Yokohama. Some of the visitors remained in the park and visited the displays of fireworks, fencing, and *jijitsu* wrestling. The visitors were allowed to ride free of charge on all the cars, and special discounts on their purchases were given at all the shops.

LATER

British sailors are creating a remarkably good impression among the people of Tokio. Wherever they have been they have behaved with the same courtesy and good friendly manners are highly admired. The sailors mingle freely with the Japanese. Some few are unable to talk to one another, but in most cases conversation is carried on by means of gestures.

In the evening a banquet, followed by a dance, was given to over 100 British officers at the Maple Club. The British officers danced with the Japanese ladies, and the formalities of etiquette were largely laid aside. The enjoyment was general and the utmost good feeling prevailed.

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هكذا من الأصل



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WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 13 1993

BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

BUSINESS TODAY

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CALLING UP



Competition in UK telecoms is set to increase sharply, Don Cruickshank, head of OfTel, says
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THE POUND

US \$ 1.5355 (+0.0038)
German mark 2.4453 (-0.0108)
Exchange index 80.8 (-0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 3094.7 (+7.5)

Dow Jones 3595.64 (+2.23)

Nikkei Ave 20137.31 (+21.33)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 6%

3-month Interbank 5 1/8%

US Federal Funds 3 1/4%

3-month Treaas Bills 2.98-2.98%

Long Bond 5.90%

CURRENCIES

New York London:

£/\$ 1.5355 £/DM 2.4413

£/Yen 162.25 £/ECU 1.2856

London Foreign market close

GOLD

London fixing (5):

AM 369.80 PM 369.80

Close 361.20-361.70

New York:

Comex 361.25-361.75

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 141.3 August (1.7%)

* Denotes midday trading price



Clipstone colliery, in Nottinghamshire, is one of four mines that might be taken over by RJB Mining when the coal industry is privatised

Wise Men expect continuing growth

By PATRICIA TEHAN

THE Chancellor was given further evidence of continued economic growth and a return of consumer confidence yesterday, as he sat down to his first meeting with the Seven Wise Men of the Treasury's independent forecasting panel. All but Professor Wynn Godley were present.

The Treasury's October monetary report said recent economic indicators pointed to continued growth and consumer confidence remained on an upward trend. The report noted a rise in July manufacturing output and a jump in August retail sales volume.

It also said inflation pressures remain subdued and noted that inflation expectations had fallen further. The report said producer output price inflation remained low by historical standards and declines in UK unit labour costs and low wage settlements indicated continuing downward pressure on inflation.

The advisers urged the Chancellor to cut interest rates in the Budget, but it is split on the need for tax increases. Their pre-Budget report to be published next week. While taking note of it, the Treasury has no obligation to act upon their policy advice.

Clarke advised, page 2

Monks urges halt to mine closures

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Monks, the general secretary of the Trades Union Congress, will today lead a union delegation to press Tim Eggar, the energy minister, for a moratorium on pit closures pending a review of energy policy.

The meeting takes place on the anniversary of the day British Coal provoked a national outcry by disclosing plans to shut 31 pits and axe 30,000 jobs. It comes after Neil Clarke, the corporation's chairman, said he was "pessimistic" about prospects for saving pits that were earmarked for closure last year but reprieved by the government in March.

British Coal is believed to have drawn up plans to close or merge 13 of its remaining 30 pits. Several of the 12 pits reprieved for "market testing" are among those earmarked to shut.

Despite massive public opposition to closures a year ago, the TUC has adopted a soft-soapy approach. Mr Monks, who took over from Norman Willis as TUC general secretary in September, is seeking to sway policy from the corridors of Whitehall rather than the streets.

"We need a coal-led energy

■ British Coal may have earmarked many of the pits reprieved for "market testing" for closure as part of its plans to close 13 of its remaining 30 pits before privatisation

policy," he said last night. "The way to achieve this is through a constructive dialogue, not a political stand off." Arthur Scargill, the general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, will not attend the meeting.

In an effort to avert a flood of miners out of the industry at the year end, the delegation, comprising members of the TUC's energy committee, will press for an extension of redundancy arrangements for

miners beyond the December 31 deadline.

British Coal is under mounting pressure to close collieries because rising output from state-owned nuclear power plants and private-sector, gas-fired stations are squeezing coal out of the power generation market.

The reprieved pits have failed to sell any extra coal, despite the offer of government subsidies. With sales to

maximum of £200,000. Some in the industry believe many NUM members might be willing to support a buyout for the Yorkshire pits. Without their co-operation, the Yorkshire collieries, which are among the British Coal's most productive deep mines, may struggle to find a buyer.

Mr Scargill remains defiant. He said there was "no doubt" that the government intended to cut the industry back to 10-14 pits in the run up to privatisation.

Of the 31 pits British Coal sought to close last year, 21 have shut. As for the rest, Mr Clarke said he could not "hold out forced optimism for the survival of those pits".

The unions are seeking a voice in the privatisation process, as well as on pit closures. Mineworkers in Scotland have shown willingness to participate in privatisation. The Union of Democratic Mineworkers, which is not affiliated to the TUC, has formed a consortium with Jim Walter Resources, an American mining group, and Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, to examine the possibility of a bid for part of the corporation.

The government has offered to meet half the costs of any employee group that decides to mount a bid, up to a

Distillers chief leaves after board clash at Guinness

By MELVYN MARCUS, CITY EDITOR

CRISPIN Davis, managing director of Guinness's principal operating company, United Distillers, abruptly resigned yesterday in the wake of a perceived clash of style with Anthony Greener, chairman of Guinness.

A brief statement from Guinness said that Mr Davis was leaving the company by "mutual agreement" and would give up his executive duties immediately.

Sources within Guinness stressed that a breakdown in the working relationship between Mr Greener and Mr Davis related to a conflict of managerial styles rather than differences of opinion regarding strategic direction.

Mr Davis's exit comes hard on the heels of a distinctly flat interim report from Guinness. Pre-tax profits fell 9 per cent to £320 million despite a 13 per cent rise in turnover to £1.9 billion. United Distillers' profit contribution fell 8 per cent to £280 million on turnover of £1.1 billion (£981 million).

The results were accompanied by a warning from Mr Greener about world trading conditions. He said: "We are still seeing signs of further deterioration in some major markets."

Guinness's 1992 accounts indicate that Mr Davis, a former vice-president of Procter & Gamble, received a salary of about £250,000. Mr Davis is understood to enjoy a three-year rolling contract but indications yesterday were that his compensation payment will be somewhat less than £750,000. Mr Davis would appear to hold 276,848 share options - exercisable at between 136½p and 548p.

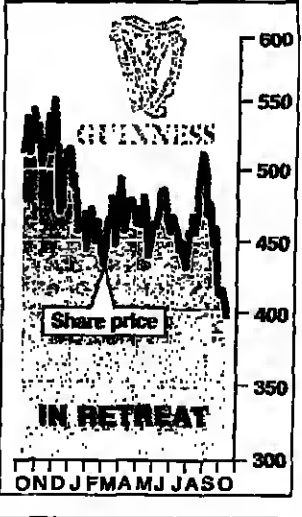
In London, Guinness's shares fell 7p to a 1993 low of 396p. They have been at 558p

this year. Guinness has been the subject of rumours ranging from the imminent resignation of Mr Greener, who succeeded Sir Anthony Tennant as chairman last January, to speculation over an unravelling of the group's 24 per cent cross shareholding in LVMH, Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, of France.

A Guinness spokesman said: "The rumours regarding Mr Greener are totally without foundation. Nor are there any imminent plans to alter our association with LVMH, although that is not to say the current arrangements are cast in stone."

He also refuted reports that Sir Anthony recently expressed his displeasure to City institutions over Guinness's share price performance.

Mr Davis succeeded Mr Greener as managing director in May 1992 and joined the board the following July. A successor, from outside is expected to be appointed shortly. Until then, United Distillers' executive committee will report to Mr Greener.



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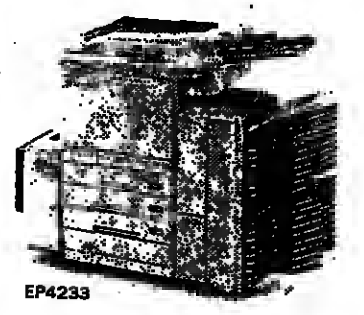
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Catalogue of folly that ditched coal

THE government's coal crisis lasted five months. A year ago, Michael Heseltine was surprised at the reaction when he endorsed a British Coal programme to halve the size of the already shrunken industry. In March, he issued a White Paper that appeared to "reprieve" most of the doomed pits, through a mixture of subsidies for extra sales to power generators, reviews of coal stocks, the nuclear industry and opencast coal projects. Rebellious backbenchers were mollified, the public reassured and the political danger was over.

Back in the real world, things are rather different. No extra sales were made and most of the high-sounding initiatives have not been pursued. The industry will soon be smaller than Mr Heseltine announced in the first place. Its decline is being accelerated by the closures themselves, which are drastically reducing available reserves, and by approvals of yet more gas-fired power stations when there is already a big capacity surplus.

A new paper from the Royal Institute of International Affairs by Mike Parker, British Coal's former director of economics, takes a resigned view. He says it is hard to

avoid the conclusion that the debate that stirred the nation "was not about fundamental strategic direction, but about politically acceptable phasing at the beginning of the last chapter in the story of a once great industry". Mr Parker notes, for instance, the rapid growth of world trade in cheaper non-European coal and the environmental pressure against coal-fired power stations using traditional technology.

Reform and widespread closures of high-cost pits were certainly needed, but those of us so keen to achieve those objectives via the critical 1984-5 battle with the communist-inspired National Union of Mineworkers saw this as a prelude to rebirth of an efficient business and secure power safe from the vagaries of oil and gas prices, rather than the demise of all but a tiny proportion of the deep-mined coal industry. This was not pie in the sky. In real terms, the average British coal price fell 36 per cent in the decade to 1991-2 and a further 28 per cent in the

latest settlements, but consumers have seen little of the benefit. In practice, ending the industry's eastern bloc economics was merely an episode in what emerges from Mr Parker's paper as a campaign against the industry. The third-stage nuclear programme was an early and well-justified offensive to break the power of coal. Without the earlier nuclear stations, the vital industrial battle might well have been lost in the winter of 1984. More surprising is the government's continuing determination to dish the NUM long after its malign industrial power was dead.

Instead of stopping the first new nuclear station, when it became clear how much we would all have to pay for it in our electricity bills, the state decided to press on with its uneconomic investment. Power privatisation could hardly have been designed more deliberately to minimise demand for domestic coal. British Coal was faced with only two buyers, with scores to settle and no

permanent contractual obligations, but requiring higher returns that absorbed lower fuel prices. New entrants encouraged by the regime could only take part by building new gas stations. With the nuclear industry protected and demand flat, the upsurge in new capacity had to be absorbed by coal stations being closed, regardless of the economics.

Much of the damage was done by the time Mr Heseltine came back on the scene with his trumpeted new French-style industrial policy. As I pointed out at the time, there were still constructive options to be achieved without subsidy by co-operation and knocking heads together. He failed to take them. As we bemoan the rising trade gap, no one talks of his new policy any more. Perhaps he will at least recall, in judging the British Gas break-up proposals, the White Paper pledge that government should not undermine the stability of a regulatory framework at privatisation.

Meanwhile, we shall see another instance of what the prime minister derided at Blackpool as "whole communities" destroyed by people who think they know better. The long-term impact of that on public spending will be the monument to folly over coal.



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Mandela pleads for investment in South Africa



Mandela at CBI yesterday

By JON ASHWORTH

NELSON Mandela, president of the African National Congress, made an impassioned plea to British business to pour funds into South Africa. But he admitted that the investment climate could hardly be worse.

Mr Mandela, addressing a CBI conference on South Africa in London, said the republic's economy was "in tatters" and urged the UK to help repair the damage. Thanking those who had supported earlier calls for sanctions, he said: "Come and invest in South Africa and, in so doing, join us in the new struggle for economic and social development."

Mr Mandela, who is on an international tour to drum up financial

support, said political initiatives could succeed only if they were supported by sustained economic development. "British industrialists have a central role to play," he declared. "We urge you not to let us down."

Mr Mandela's speech reflected the lack of economic consensus in South Africa. Until a new government is in place, it will be impossible for foreign investors to gain more than a rough feel for the shape future economic policy is likely to take.

Mr Mandela said that all companies, domestic and foreign, would be subject to the same policy. A future ANC-dominated government would guarantee security of all investments against expropriation and allow profits to be repatriated. Exchange controls

would be abolished as soon as a semblance of stability returned to the economy. Foreign investors would be free to invest where they liked.

The domination of South African business by a handful of white-controlled monopolies would have to end. The ANC wanted to introduce anti-trust laws to unbundle existing structures and to promote wider ownership. It was necessary to reduce tariffs and rationalise their structure to stimulate trade.

Mr Mandela repeated earlier pleas to South Africans at home and abroad to help rebuild the nation. He said: "I call on all South Africans who have left to come back home and make a much needed contribution to building a new, non-racial society." The ANC has

adopted the theme of South Africa as an engine for development in southern Africa as a whole.

At a subsequent press conference, Mr Mandela said American and European businesses had indicated their readiness to invest. He urged them to prepare feasibility studies — something many potential UK investors have been doing for the past two years at least.

He said new funds were unlikely to flood in while violence remained high. Joint ventures would be one way of helping small black South African businesses close the gap with their larger white competitors.

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City Diary, page 29

Lloyd's names win High Court victory on duties of agents

A significant High Court case, hailed as a victory by cash-strapped Lloyd's names, has widened the range of insurance market professionals who can be sued by them

By SARAH BAGNALL
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of litigating Lloyd's names won an important High Court victory yesterday, helping their fight to recover up to £3.5 billion of insurance losses.

Mr Justice Saville, the High Court judge handling Lloyd's cases, ruled that members' agents — who are responsible for placing names on syndicates — were liable for the conduct of names' underwriting business. He also found that managing agents — who run the syndicates — owed names a duty of care for the conduct of their underwriting.

The judgment is important for the 17,000 names who are taking, or planning to take, legal action against dozens of Lloyd's members' and managing agents. There are claims from 37 names action groups, the first of which is due in court on December 6.

Michael Deeny, chairman of the Gooda Walker Action Group, which represents more than 3,000 names taking action against 71 members' agents, said: "This is an enormously important victory for all names who have been the victims of incompetence at Lloyd's. It is the last hurdle before our case is heard in April."

The action group seeks to recover £53 million of insurance losses made in 1983, 1989 and 1990. Mr Justice Saville's ruling affects £500 million of claims because it covers names' contracts with their members' agents between 1987 and 1990 and managing agents' duty of care to names for 1989 and prior years.

The judge said that under the terms of contracts with agents between 1987 and 1990, "members' agents do under-

take to conduct on behalf of the name the underwriting business of the name at Lloyd's, including that which is the function of the managing agents actually to perform."

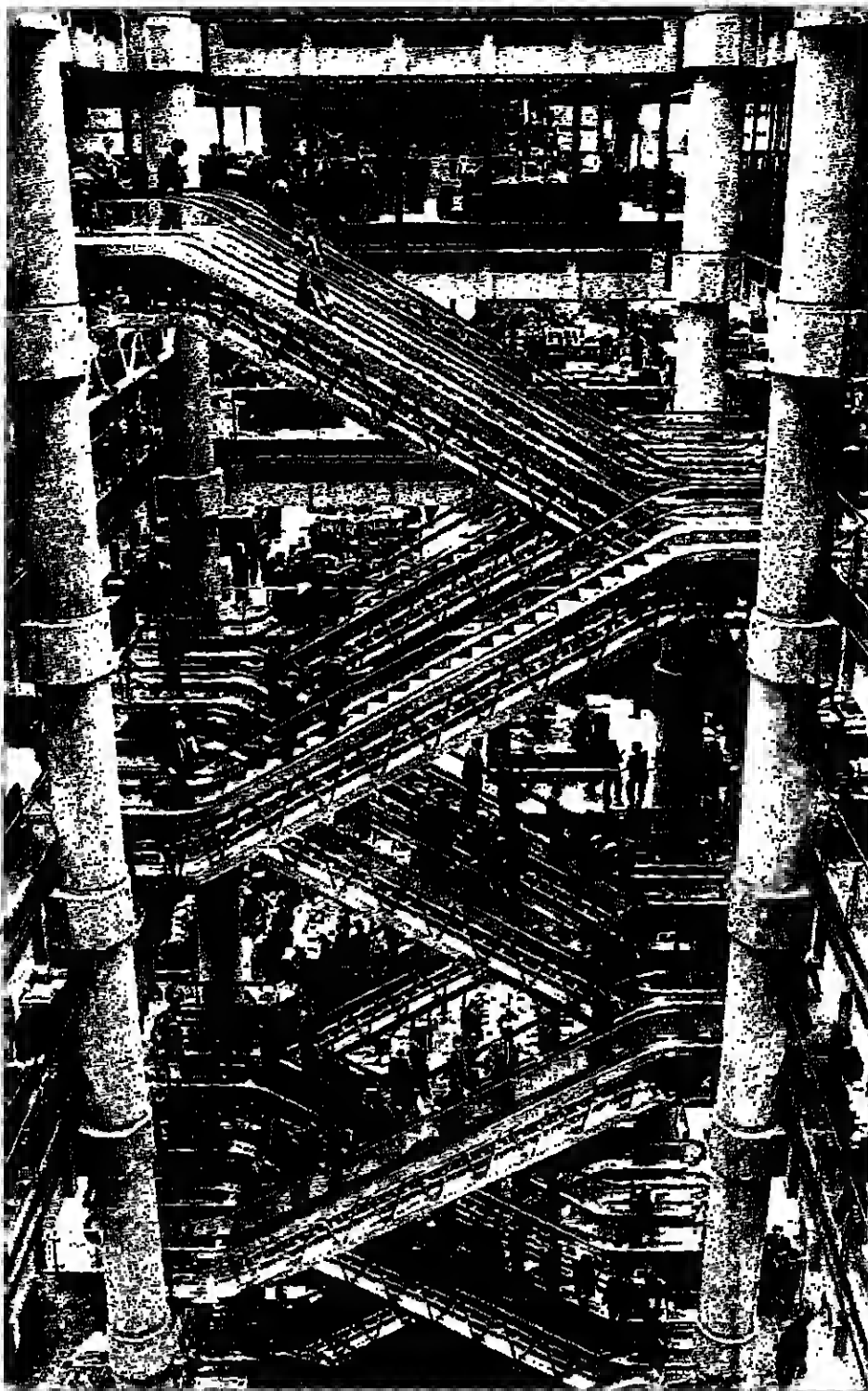
In reaching his decision, the judge used three action groups. The Merrett Action Group was used to determine agents' contractual duties to names under contracts drawn up before 1985. Since then, the wording has been changed twice: the Feltrim Names Association and the Gooda Walker Action group were used as test cases for these contracts.

In the case of members' agents' contracts with names in 1987 and prior years, the judge decided that he could not make a judgment because the form of the contracts differed markedly. As a result, Merrett Action Group and other action groups making claims for those years are likely to be dealt with on a case by case basis.

Lloyd's confirmed that it was being sued for £400 million in relation to the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989. Exxon Corporation's total claim against insurers, including Lloyd's, is \$1.2 billion. However, Lloyd's said its policies had a limit of \$289 million.

Exxon claims its policies covered oil spills and other catastrophes. Lloyd's says the agreements excluded marine pollution protection for tankers, and that Exxon as the cargo owner was not legally required to clean up the spill of 11 million gallons of crude oil off Alaska.

Lloyd's is awaiting the outcome of an application for any arbitration or litigation to be heard in a New York court, as opposed to Texas.



Most names in the insurance market are taking, or planning, legal action against agents

CBI calls for government to improve terms with industry

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government needs to improve sharply its relationship with industry to help increase UK competitiveness, the Confederation of British Industry says today.

Suggesting that the government sets out in detail its strategic policy towards industry — possibly in a white paper — the CBI believes some of the government's problems in areas such as taxation, including the proposed addition of VAT to domestic fuel, stem from policies not being set against an explicit strategic background about the direction the government wants to see both the economy and industry go.

In an attempt to prompt ministers into a clear definition of policy towards industry, the CBI says the government has

so far failed to define in detail the new partnership with industry signalled by John Major, the prime minister.

Rejecting old-style interventionism as a policy that has been tried and has failed, the CBI in *Partners for Success*, a policy document, says the objective of government policy in this area should be to raise the sustainable rate of economic growth by improving the competitiveness of UK industry and commerce.

The CBI's document, which is being sent to the prime minister and his cabinet, is often highly critical of government thinking and structure. Industrialists no longer accept the "minimalist" role the government has set itself over industrial policy, and they are

not convinced the structure of government decision-making is suited to a coherent approach to competitiveness.

It says "the Treasury is seen to be too powerful for its own good", the different responsibilities of the employment and education departments are not well understood in industry, and there are only recent signs that the trade and industry department has become more active in representing the business interest in government.

The CBI says the government can improve its policy towards industry in seven areas — public spending and tax, education and training, transport and planning, trade and investment, industrial support, regulations and "partnership and leadership".

Jitters in City over CD enquiry

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES in Thorn EMI, the rental and music group, fell 19p to 933p yesterday as the City took fright over the US Federal Trade Commission's decision to investigate alleged price fixing of new compact discs.

The move mirrors a similar enquiry in the UK, where the Monopolies and Mergers Commission has launched an industry-wide investigation into CD price fixing. Analysts said the shares were also hit by a report into music piracy suggesting worldwide illegal sales of \$2.1 billion (£1.4 billion) and the possible negative impact of a case involving George Michael, the pop star.

That case, which is due to start on Monday, involves Sony Corporation, a rival music company. Mr Michael is trying to break his 15-year contract with Sony.

Thorn EMI said the industry had been aware of the US enquiry for at least six weeks. "We will co-operate fully with the US Federal Trade Commission's enquiry, as we are with the MMC one here."

Big record companies, including Thorn EMI, have been asked to submit documents concerning pricing over the past two years by Monday.

In the UK, a chart-listed CD costs £12.99, compared with \$12.99 (£8.55) in America.

Tempos, page 29

Managers pay rises gain pace

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PAY rises for British managers are increasing in size again after touching a 25-year low of 3 per cent at the start of the year.

Average salary increases among bosses are running at 3.5 per cent, with managing directors in leading sectors such as chemicals, food, drink and tobacco averaging 5 per cent.

The findings of a survey on top pay by consultants P-E International call into question the success of the government's anti-inflation strategy. They also increase the difficulties faced by ministers seeking to cap the public sector pay bill at a time when inflation is accelerating.

Simon McBride, a pay consultant at P-E, said the upsurge mirrored the end of the early 1980s recession, and predicted a rapid acceleration of pay rises.

"Like the 1980-81 recession, management salary increases tracked inflation down throughout the recessionary period," he said. "In 1983, salary increases began to move ahead of inflation. By 1985, management pay was rising at twice the level of inflation and continued to do so until 1989."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BNP private investors face shares scale back

THE public offer for the sale of Banque Nationale de Paris by the French government closed last night with an estimated 1.5 million applications for shares. The government will reveal the exact number on Friday but it is sure to be higher than the 1 million goal.

The institutional offer was closed last week, more than 12 times subscribed after just two days. The government must now decide if it should claw back shares for the public from the institutional tranche. Under the original terms, the public offer was for 37.5 million shares, or 52 per cent, of the 72 million shares on sale. It now seems that even if the clawback option is exercised, shares allocated to private investors will be scaled back.

Willig buyout hopes

TRANSPORT Development Group, the haulier, still believes the management buyout of its Willig Freight Lines subsidiary will go ahead despite an initial payment deadline being missed. The purchasers failed to pay \$7.5 million on September 30. The final balance is due on November 30. However, letters of intent signed by the purchasers and their potential financial partners will enable a single payment of \$14.3 million to be made by November 30.

New NatWest deputy

NATIONAL Westminster Bank has appointed Sir Sydney Lipworth, ex-chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, as a non-executive director and a deputy chairman. He takes the seat vacated by Tom Frost. NatWest's former chief executive, who retired as a deputy chairman in August. His fellow deputy chairmen are Sir Michael Angus, chairman of Whitbread and president of the CBI, and Sir Edwin Nixon, chairman of Amersham International.

Clinton Cards cuts loss

STRONGER sales of greetings cards and a lower interest bill helped to reduce the traditional first-half loss at Clinton Cards from £1.3 million to £956,000 for the six months to July 31. The opening of 18 new stores, making a total of 272, lifted sales from £28.4 million to £32.1 million. Like-for-like sales, however, remained static and have fallen in the second half against a particularly strong August last year. The interim dividend is raised from 1.5p to 1.6p.

Plysu issues warning

SHARES in Plysu, the plastic containers and houseware group, slumped 21p to 219p yesterday as the group warned that profits in the year to next April will fall well short of City expectations. Plysu said trading was being hit by the recession in mainland Europe and limited recovery in the UK. There were unconfirmed reports that UBS, the company's broker, had reduced its full-year profits forecast for Plysu from about £11.5 million to £8 million.

Brighter year for Sun

SUN Alliance, the composite insurance group, confirmed market forecasts that in the absence of unforeseen circumstances it will return to profit for the year to end-December, having benefited from improving insurance markets. The group has made a £125 million placing of cumulative irredeemable preference shares, arranged by Cazenove and SG Warburg Securities, who will find subscribers or subscribe for the preference shares themselves.

Derwent profits leap

SOME return of stability to the property market allowed Derwent Valley Holdings to lift pre-tax profits by 86.2 per cent to £1.12 million in the six months to end-June. Despite difficult trading conditions early in the year, the group saw net revenue from properties climb to £3.22 million (£3.15 million). Earnings grew to 9.9p (5.2p) a share. The interim dividend is raised to 3.05p (2.9p). Derwent Valley said it looks to the future with greater confidence than for some time.

Wm Sinclair declines

A YEAR of cold and wet weather took its toll on William Sinclair Holdings. The Lincoln gardening products and pet foods group reported pre-tax profits fell 17 per cent to £3.82 million in the year to end-June. However, the 1992 numbers have been restated to £2.96 million in line with FRS3 accounting standards.

The total dividend is maintained at 7p for the year, with a final of 5.3p. The company had £6 million cash at the year end.

Boxmore rises 33%

BOXMORE International, the USM-quoted packaging and printing group, announced interim pre-tax profits rose 33 per cent from £2.05 million to £2.72 million. The group said there were additional opportunities for expansion. The dividend for the six months to end-June is 1.25p (1.15p), with earnings per share up from 7.3p to 9.4p. Directors said while the cartons division had maintained profits in a competitive market, the plastics division had lifted its profits contribution.

Ross earnings halved



ROSS Group, the consumer products and technical services company headed by Noel Hayes, left, the former stockbroker, has announced a fall in taxable profits from £1.3 million to £602,000 in the first six months of the year, although the dividend has been pegged at 0.20p. Profits were depressed by adverse currency movements, a delay in getting a major engineering contract and a disappointing performance in consumer electronics. The shares dropped 5p to 24p. Earnings per share in the period fell from 0.73p to 0.29p.

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Millionaires return to Wall Street

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

SCORES of new Wall Street millionaires are expected this year as the investment banks and stockbrokers continue to hit record profits. The stock market and underwriting boom will translate into huge bonuses and because Wall Street has not taken back as many staff as it shed after the 1987 crash, the larger pie will be shared by fewer players.

Merrill Lynch, America's largest investment banker, and Bear Stearns, which is among the highest payers on Wall Street, yesterday disclosed huge profits, powered by underwriting and the scramble by institutions and individuals to buy shares on the stock market.

Latest figures show that top executives at Merrill received salary and bonuses of about \$10 million for 1992. Details of this year's pay will not be revealed for six months. But senior staff at Bear Stearns,

whose financial year is already complete, are already benefiting from the explosion in money and are seeking shareholder approval for a move that would give the two highest executives \$15.9 million each and allow the next five down the ladder to share almost \$52 million.

Perrin Long, securities analyst at The First of Michigan Capital Group, a regional stockbroker, said: "Bonuses will be really good this year. There will be a number of new millionaires..." A broker earning \$200,000 this year could be taking home \$437,000 once the bonuses pay out over Christmas. Analysts said a trader's pay could easily top \$1 million this year. Mr Long expects total industry profits to jump 50 per cent and hit a record \$6 billion this year, but they are likely to slow slightly next year.

Merrill Lynch yesterday celebrated a 57

per cent jump in the third quarter, with a two-for-one share split and a 14 per cent rise in the dividend, the third increase in less than 18 months. The shares have more than doubled in price in the past 12 months. In the first nine months of this year, net income has risen to \$1.04 billion on turnover up 19 per cent to \$12.07 billion. Revenues from investment banking rose 24 per cent to \$452 million.

Commissions on share trading rose to \$690 million and trading for its own account hit \$733 million. So far this year, it is the top underwriter of debt and equity issues, with a 17.3 per cent share of the US market and a 13.5 per cent share of the global cake. In July, August and September, the first three months of its financial year, Bear Stearns's net income jumped 66 per cent to \$104 million on a 27.5 per cent rise in turnover of \$771.1 million.

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BT will face increased competition next year

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Telecom faces a rapid increase in competition in the United Kingdom telecoms market from next year, Don Cruickshank, the director-general of OfTel, said. The reforms needed to clear the way for a full-frontal assault on BT's market dominance by cable operators, Mercury, and other new entrants would be largely completed within nine months, he said. Of 12 key issues, only two would take longer to settle: directory enquiries and the "equal access" arrangements to ensure telephone users have an effective, easy-to-use choice between competing operators. Pressure for a modernisation of the relationship between competing telephone service providers has become intense since the market was thrown open to new entrants by the government after the duopoly review. Granting cable television

■ The new broom at the regulatory body governing telecommunications is promising to shake up the market and allow the consumer more choice

operators the right to provide phone services has triggered a massive surge in investment in local phone links. Settlement of the main regulatory issues next year would allow competition to develop much faster, Mr Cruickshank said. He estimated that 50 to 60 actual or potential competitors were talking to OfTel about providing telephony services. The first firm sign of regulatory progress will come in the first half of next year, when OfTel takes over responsibility for the allocation of phone numbers and codes from BT. The move, announced by Mr Cruickshank yesterday, will mean that phone users will no longer have to change numbers if they switch from BT to a cable operator. "At the

moment this is a significant barrier to changing," he said. Phone companies will be allocated blocks of numbers by OfTel, but once a number is awarded to a customer, it could be as permanent as a house number in a street. Since being appointed earlier this year to replace Sir Bryan Carsberg, now director-general of fair trading, Mr Cruickshank has moved the liberalisation programme into top gear and encouraged participants to negotiate agreed solutions to pricing and connection issues arising from the opening up of the market. BT and Mercury have agreed to provide emergency services for all operators. Now Mr Cruickshank is leaning on operators to reach agreement

on optimal technical standards, "not just the ones that BT would like to provide". Mr Cruickshank has told BT to provide better information about its own phone network to rivals, so that they can make better informed investment decisions. He is also looking to see whether it is possible to prevent BT using its own advantage information gleaned from rivals during discussions about connecting their networks. Moves towards separate internal accounting of BT businesses to prevent discriminatory pricing are also advancing, Mr Cruickshank said. Monitoring of service standards is under consideration, and OfTel has decided to collect data on market shares, both nationally and locally, to help BT's rivals. Finally, OfTel is to publish more details about its own workings in an effort to ensure new phone system operators can make more effective use of appeal procedures.



Book sales offset lower magazine returns for Miles Emley, chairman of St Ives

VAT uncertainty for printer

By MARTIN FLANAGAN

SHARES in St Ives, the UK's biggest independent printer, eased 3p to 299p, as it added its weight to publishing industry fears that an extension of VAT to books and magazines may undermine the sector. Miles Emley, chairman, said: "The threat of imposition of VAT on some of our products represents a continuing uncertainty." He spoke as St Ives unveiled a small increase in pre-tax profits to £22.1 million (£21.1 million) in the 12 months to end-July, and an

increase in the total dividend to 5.5p (5.25p) via a 4p final. Returns were lower in the UK magazine business as publishing customers consolidated issues and reduced pagination, but this was largely offset by sales growth in most sectors of the book printing business. Financial printing, meanwhile, showed a marked recovery in the second half, with the printer's Burrows subsidiary winning major projects such as the ICI/Zeneca

demerger, BT3, and the privatisation of Northern Ireland electricity. The group's North American business suffered from markedly lower volumes in the second half, particularly in medical titles, which were affected by the US government's healthcare review. St Ives finished the year with net cash reserves of £21.6 million, compared with £13.5 million at the previous year-end. Earnings per share were static at 15.2p.

GrandMet hit by loss of contract

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

GRAND Metropolitan, the international food and drinks company, is set to lose up to £35 million profit a year following the loss of the distribution contract for Absolut, the premium vodka brand, industry sources believe.

Vin & Spirit, of Sweden, which owns the Absolut brand, has decided to terminate a successful 13-year relationship with Carillon Importers, the American subsidiary of IDV, GrandMet's drinks arm. The group's share price dropped sharply on the news, falling 15p to 403p at yesterday's close.

During those 13 years, Carillon has taken Absolut from negligible sales to almost three million cases a year in America, which now accounts for more than 75 per cent of the brand's worldwide sales.

John McGrath, IDV's chairman and chief executive, said yesterday: "Given this impressive track record... it is all the more surprising that V&S should make this decision." However, it is believed V&S, which is keen to expand Absolut sales outside of the American market, feels GrandMet would be an inappropriate partner for this next stage of development, given that it already owns the Smirnoff and Popov vodka brands. This view was dismissed by some analysts, who say Absolut has not suffered from a conflict of interest in the American market.

GrandMet said it was considering "various options" but it declined to comment further. Although Absolut is a major brand in Carillon's portfolio, it still retains Grand Marnier, Bombay gin, Fiat wines and Ricard.

One drinks analyst said: "The loss of Absolut does not leave a gaping hole in the portfolio, but it is still extremely painful for the group after having worked so hard at developing the brand." He did not rule out the possibility that GrandMet may be able to claim legal compensation from V&S for the loss of the contract.

TV will play key role in News Corp future

FROM REUTER IN ADELAIDE

RUPERT Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, yesterday laid out bold plans to make News Corp a multimedia broadcast company in nearly every quarter of the globe, while reaffirming a commitment to newspapers.

Mr Murdoch told the annual meeting in Adelaide that television would play the key role in the company's future.

"We'll cover the world with partnerships or with our own television. We hope we can develop our own electronic highway," he said after the meeting.

Mr Murdoch also described his European operations in glowing terms. He said BSkyB, the UK satellite operator 50 per cent owned by News Corp, should enjoy a profit of £180 million in 1994, up from £60 million in 1993. Mr Mur-

doch tipped a 20 per cent rise in first-quarter earnings, for News Corp, which is the ultimate owner of The Times, due to be announced in November, after a record 1992-3 profit.

He said the company planned a bonus share issue, but details were still being worked out.

Mr Murdoch said he was firmly committed to newspapers, which he said could someday be retrieved on a screen at home.

He said readership in two of the company's British newspapers, The Times and The Sun, had improved by 100,000 and 400,000, respectively, in recent months after price cuts. "Our share of market has gone up and we expect in the next six months to achieve rather more dramatic results," he said.

Tie Rack expansion helps profits to treble

BY OUR CITY STAFF

A HEALTHY increase in sales and a tight grip on costs helped almost treble profits at Tie Rack, the specialist tie, scarf and fashion accessories retailer.

Pre-tax profits leapt from £301,000 to £872,000 for the six months to August 15 on sales up from £25.3 million to £33 million. Turnover was boosted by the opening of ten new stores, bringing the total to 282. Germany, Switzerland and Austria were added to the group's tally of 14 countries with further international expansion in the offing. Like-for-like sales rose 4 per cent, with the group's new Pink Panther range among the best-sellers. The strong growth in sales helped quadruple operating margins to 2.4 per cent.

The group plans to open another 22 stores in the second

half. Roy Bishko, chairman, says the group will expand at a rate of about 10 per cent a year thereafter.

While Britain, Australia and most of continental Europe made good progress, trading in North America was mixed and losses deepened in France.

Mr Bishko, who once described the group's American expansion as "attempted suicide", says the region should be back in profit at the year end.

He remains cautious about overall prospects in the second half, which accounts for more than 60 per cent of sales, given the "fragile" state of consumer confidence in the group's major markets. Again there is no interim dividend.

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King coal is dead, long live king coal — in private hands

After four decades of contraction, Britain's coal industry will soon be privatised. Ross Tieman believes that, at long last, the tide could be turning

The outrage of last autumn has long since evaporated. Two-thirds of the mines on British Coal's hit list have ceased production; another 13 will soon follow. And who gives a hoot? Arthur Scargill, made famous again for 15 minutes, has resumed his role as the Ford Anglia of the Labour movement, a quaint reminder of another age. White collar workers in London, briefly roused by the miners' plight, no longer sense a shared threat to their own jobs.

In the mining communities they are bitter, but resigned. Young for the most part, the 20,000 miners who have laid aside their lamps in exchange for redundancy pay hope for new work in a new industry, if the blessed recovery ever gathers pace.

In Whitehall, Tim Eggar, the energy minister, is preparing the coup de grace for the British Coal Corporation. His white paper, to be announced in the Queen's Speech on November 18, will clear the way for the sale of the Corporation and the creation of a modern, private mining industry.

A National Coal Authority will be established to award licences and oversee exploitation of reserves. A paraphernalia of restrictions, ranging from limits on numbers underground to the duration of miners' shifts, will be sliced away. And the government will assume liability for all the subsidence and environmental degradation arising from centuries of coal working.

By early next summer, when the bill is due to complete its parliamentary passage, Neil Clarke, the Corporation chairman, will be ready to invite bids for what remains of his inheritance.

How shrunken it will be. On October 13, 1992, when Mr Clarke announced plans to close 31 pits and shed 30,000 miners, the Corporation had 51 collieries manned by 48,000 men underground. In the past 12 months, 20,400 underground workers and 2,100 staff have left the industry. Today there are 30 pits and a total of 30,100 employees. But even this is still too many.

Spurning advice from the trade and industry select committee in the midst of last year's hiatus, the government declined to take any meaningful action to correct distortions in the selection of fuels for power generation. Gas and nuclear power have continued to squeeze demand for coal in a market which had come to account for 80 per cent of coal sales.

The mines kept open for "market testing" have failed to sell a single extra lump of coal, and their output has simply piled up at the pitheads. Meantime, British Coal's contracted sales to PowerGen and National Power, the two biggest generators, have fallen sharply, and will fall again.

In the year to March, the Corporation's revenues amounted to £3.3 billion. In the current year, thanks to lower sales and a 20 per cent price cut, income will be only £2 billion. Next year, when contracted tonnages sold to the generators fall from 40 million tonnes to 30 million tonnes, British



Neil Clarke, British Coal's chairman, will be ready to invite bids next summer for what remains of his inheritance

Coal's income will plummet again. That is why plans have been drawn up for a further round of closures and mergers which will in effect see an end to production at another 13 pits. To minimise public hostility, the process will be conducted piecemeal.

Ministers no longer trust British Coal's management to judge what is best for the industry. Mr Eggar has ordered the Corporation to recast itself into five regional groups ahead of privatisation. Management and employee teams from British Coal and private companies will be invited to bid for one or more in any combination.

The Scottish operations, comprising the Longannet deep mine, a mothballed pit and 12 opencast sites, will form a single unit. The North East, with two deep mines and eight opencast sites, will form another and Wales, with two collieries and nine opencast sites will provide a third. The central coalfield, spanning Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and the Midlands, is made up of 25 operating collieries, two more under development and 13 opencast sites. It will be divided somehow into two.

To encourage offers from British Coal employees, the government has pledged to meet half the cost of preparing any in-house bid, up to a maximum £200,000 per team.

One consortium, involving the Nottinghamshire-based Union of Democratic Mineworkers, Jim Walter Resources (a US mining group) and Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, has already been formed.

Private companies are also interested. RJB Mining, which already operates some underground and opencast

coal workings, is frank about its ambitions to bid for as much of British Coal as it can digest. Ryan, a group from south Wales, is also expected to seek some British Coal operations.

And Malcolm Edwards, the British Coal marketing director ousted by Mr Clarke two years ago in an acrimonious row, has emerged at the head of Coal Investments, a small quoted company, with a clear view to build up a portfolio of coal production, processing and distribution activities.

There is also the possibility of interest from leading mining groups such as Hanson, which owns Peabody, America's biggest coalminer, and KIZ — to name but two.

But buying pit packages is not the only way to expand in the industry. British Coal has been obliged to offer all its unwanted mines for lease and licence by private operators. According to leaders of independent mining groups, this is an attractive option. Although British Coal generally closes less productive pits first, there may be less risk in leasing than in buying a business whose main assets are a three-year contract with the generators and equipment that new owners may think inappropriate.

RJB Mining has offered to lease four pits: Markham Main, Bevercotes, Clifton and Rossington. Mr Edwards has bid for a similar number, and has already been selected to enter final negotiations to assume responsibility for Betws drift mine in South Wales. In total, applications have been submitted to re-open six redundant pits.

The independent miners believe they can succeed where British Coal has failed, in making the mines commercially viable.

The independent miners believe they can succeed where British Coal has failed, in making the mines commercially viable

cially viable. Prolonged contraction has left British Coal chronically over-manned and overburdened with wage costs. Since the rush for redundancy began a year ago, productivity has soared an extraordinary 36 per cent, to 9.45 tonnes per man, per shift.

Yet Jim Walter Resources, run by Bill Carr, a former British Coal mine manager, achieves 17 tonnes a man/shift operating in similar geological conditions in Alabama.

Privatisation, whether by leasing or by sale, will result in the return of a number of key former British Coal engineers who have been working in comparable private sector mines overseas. These men will extend the use of bolted supports and introduce more powerful equipment to run mines producing a million tonnes a year with little more than 400 miners. To achieve a similar production, British Coal currently uses up to 700. Profits from coal mining are likely to be supplemented by increased exploitation of coal bed methane gas.

Many difficulties of a privatised regime remain to be addressed. Should pits be mothballed rather than closed to maintain strategic access to reserves? And if so how will they be used? In the private sector, Britain's coal industry will be profitable, more productive, safer still, and smaller. It may even thrive. The combined cycle gas turbines now being built to generate much of Britain's electricity can run just as easily on gas produced from coal as North Sea gas. If coal becomes competitive, by reducing its costs, because rising gas demand inflates prices, or because political instability causes a new energy price shock, a mining resurgence will occur.

That may not happen for a decade. But it is, at long last, possible to conceive an end to coal's four decades of contraction.

TEMPUS

Market-making mood

SUDDENLY, every man and his dog wants to float on the stock exchange. The state of new issues is beginning to resemble the run up to the crash of 1987, when 125 companies were launched. Numbers may not reach that peak (57 companies were floated in the first half of this year) and money raised will fall well short of previous years due to the lack of government privatisations. But at least 13 companies are in the queue for a quiet next month and there are enough candidates for flotation until the year end to add well over £1 billion to the market's capitalisation.

The driving force behind this share sale is the rise in share values that has enabled cash-hungry companies to replace expensive and unreliable overdrafts with equity. Many smaller companies that have bounced back from the recession are saddled with expensive bank finance, often repayable on demand. Selling shares into a market trading on 22 times reported earnings looks as easy as picking plums off a tree, and many institutions are seizing a window of opportunity to realise their gains from backing management

buy-outs. The 1990s crop of flotations shows some strong differences from the 1987 boom. Property companies and advertising agencies being conspicuous in their absence. Investors expect rapid growth in earnings per share from stock market tyros, which in practical terms means that most of the manufacturing sector is ignored by sponsors. The service sector is strongly represented, including companies such as BSM, Garmon and Towry Law, while the retail sector, and names such as Allred and Charles Sydney are being backed on hopes of consumer recovery.

The replacement for the fallen idol of real estate for investors in the 1990s is a high risk but more hi-tech prospect: biotechnology. A relaxation of the listing rules has enabled start-up biotech groups to be floated without a trading record. These need a mechanism to raise equity and promote their investment potential but they sit awkwardly within the ranks of established listed companies. The Stock Exchange needs a separate market to deal with high risk and high reward situations: it used to be called the USM.

Tie Rack

ROY Bishko, Tie Rack's effusive chairman, was wearing a tie adorned with trumpets yesterday, as he unveiled interim results. But he had no need to blow his own trumpet: the figures did that for him. A tripling of pre-tax profits and quadrupling of margins suggests recovery continues at Tie Rack.

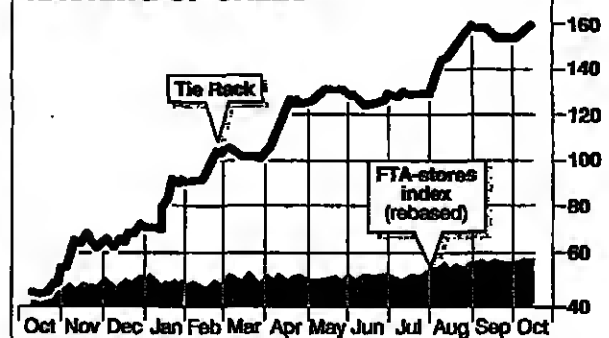
That the group is looking to expand once more is a sign of how far it has come. Having been nearly brought to its knees in the 1980s by over-aggressive expansion, it is sufficiently confident to start opening larger numbers of new stores. The critical difference this time, it must be hoped, is that it has its cost base firmly under control.

Instead of a proliferation of warehouses scattered across every continent, Tie Rack now has a single centre in London that services virtual-

ly its entire network. As Mr Bishko says, opening up a shop in Germany now costs almost the same as opening one in Birmingham. With sights firmly set on overseas expansion, this is just as well. Through openings in airports, the group has an ideal formula for the expansion of its small store format, capitalising on the large number of people that pass

through departure lounges. That is not to say it has peaked in Britain. Electronic point of sale systems have only been introduced in 40 per cent of stores, giving plenty of scope for further profit improvement from cost and stock reduction. Growth is likely to be steady rather than spectacular, but the shares deserve their premium rating to the sector.

RACKING UP SALES



South Africa

THE cries of the beloved country, South Africa, for foreign capital to speed its way south of the Limpopo are increasingly falling on willing ears as Nelson Mandela tours world financial centres.

Britain, long an investor in the Cape, has been urged to lead the charge, continental and Far East money is already trickling in, and American funds are sure to follow when, post April 27, South Africa fully comes in from the cold.

The Johannesburg stock exchange already boasts 30 companies whose market capitalisation tops \$1 billion, the market's prospective price/earnings ratio of 10.4 is not without attraction, and the country's economic infrastructure is long and well established.

As an "emerging market", South Africa will attract fashionable money, and serves as a stepping stone into sub-Saharan Africa.

But the rub, as Mr

Mandela is pragmatic enough to concede, is that though the foreign spirit is willing, the investment flesh is weak — and will remain so while political doubts last.

Ex Africa semper aliquid novi, and Mr Mandela's assurances of unfettered profits repatriation, and the stated intention soon to lift exchange controls, go some way in encouraging new money. But social peace that ensures investment security is the pressing need before any trickle becomes a flood.

Thorn EMI

THE market will not leave Thorn EMI alone. Yesterday, the music and electronics company was linked to concerns about CD piracy and an American investigation into alleged CD price fixing only weeks after allegations of dubious business practices at Rent-a-Center. The rush to downgrade Thorn has become a knee-jerk reaction to any news that can be linked to the company. That is

scarcely reasonable and the slight dip in yesterday's share price says more about the volatility of the shares than damage to its business. Piracy is a continuing irritation for music companies and is focused on the Far East where regulation is weak and enforcement inadequate. The key markets for Thorn and other music companies are in the US, Germany and the UK. The outcome of investigations into the CD industry will be critical for Thorn but the regulators will need to ensure that any attack on the profits of the music companies does not starve the market of less fashionable music. The logical response when a company's margins are under attack from regulators is to reduce investment in lower performing assets.

But the real question for shareholders is whether the underlying strategy is correct. Some would argue music is a countercyclical business, unlikely to pick up at the same pace as the rest of the market in a recovery.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Strangling off the agenda

HOWARD Davies, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, was in acerbic form as he welcomed Nelson Mandela to yesterday's conference on South Africa at Centre Point. Re-marking on the changes that had swept the republic, Davies threw in the postscript: "I can't think of anything that has changed in the UK in the last three years." Later, he introduced Christo Wiese of South Africa's Industrial Development Corporation by noting that he was a lawyer — but that doesn't worry us. We've had all sort of undesirable here. "Not to be outdone," Richard Needham, trade minister, revealed that he had worked in a tobacco factory in South Africa as a teenager — before proving the point by breaking into passable Afrikaans. The republic, he said, had rejected the "Boer-racist Park" option. None less witty was Mandela himself, who, nodding at Derek Keys, former chairman of Gencor and current minister of finance and trade and industry (a weighty task), proclaimed: "A few years ago, if minister Keys had dared sit next to me, I would have strangled him to death." Times have changed indeed.

Fruity, yet robust

A HEDGING of bets by Gaymer Group, the £150 million management buyout from Allied Lyons, which this week

relaunches its Babyham sparkling perry range. For hardier tastes, Gaymer has launched a new range of "highly sessionable" cider, which it describes as "truly full bodied and exceedingly well rounded." It is called Fatboys.

Price cutters

PETER Cundhill, the millionaire Canadian investor known as "Valueman" for his practice of taking stakes in what he regards as undervalued companies — Amstrad being one such case — has made one of his more unusual investments to date. Cundhill, 54, whose Cundhill Value fund has \$269 million in assets behind it, has emerged as the secret backer of an upmarket designer fashion store on the King's Road called Moa, which opened in June and counts Jane Asher and Imogen Stubbs among its

regulars. The venture, run by Merryn Corcoran, a vivacious Kiwi who breeds racehorses back home, is just up Cundhill's street, since it specialises in undercutting pricey designer names — blazers that go for up to £1,000 elsewhere are on the rack at £189, or so I'm told. "Women want to make their money work for them," says Corcoran, who is due to fly back to Christchurch soon for the first running of her foals. A Moa, by the way, is an extinct, flightless, 10 lb bird, formerly found in New Zealand.

Vet-in-law

WITH SG Warburg hard at work advising on Italian privatisations, ambitious young bankers may have been dismayed to read in our forthcoming marriages column last week that Sir David Scholey's daughter, Fiorenza, had become engaged to an Italian from Lucca called Giulio Bruno Cherubini. But despite a name fairly dripping with the prospect of sudden promotion to high office, I gather it is unlikely to be a case of the son-in-law also rising at Warburg. Cherubini, I understand, is a vet.

Members only

THE Square Mile has a new club — and it is open to women as well as men. The books opened this week for membership of the Capital Club of London, a new private members dining club in Abchurch Lane, tucked away behind the Monument. Christopher Reeves, chairman of Merrill

Lynch (Europe) and Daniel Tyree, managing partner of Lehman Brothers (Europe) are among 20 City names on the advisory board of the club; due to open in July. There is a transferable joining fee of £1,000 plus monthly subscriptions of £45. Sir Peter Parker is the founding chairman.

Musical chairs

UPHEAVALS at NatWest Markets, where Jonathan Feinberg, a senior market maker, has departed to join SGST, formerly SocGen Strauss Turnbull. After past posts at Smith New Court and Morgan Stanley, he is due to take over the stores book from Alan Bristow, alias "The Goalie", who is now out of the market. Feinberg starts on December 1. In other moves, Lorenzo Colucci, 30, has defected from Smith New Court's European team to cover European and Italian sales at NatWest. Robert Fleming, meanwhile, has signed up Miles Sahel, formerly of Nomura, to replace Susan Anthony, electronics analyst, who side-stepped to Schroder Securities earlier in the summer. Andrew Stormonth-Darling, formerly with WI Carr, has joined T. Hoare & Co, the mining specialist.

In the wake of yesterday's tale about the Los Angeles sports shop called The Merchant of Tennis, comes word of an Edinburgh plumber called... The Lone Drainer and Pronto.

JON ASHWORTH

Caught three times by financial institutions that are run by computers

From Mr Andrew Norton Sir, It's an old chestnut, but can I exhort managers of financial institutions to examine the interface between their computer and their customer? In the last four months I have wrestled with three different financial institutions because they let their computers run them.

The first case involved an insurance company that failed to tell its computer that I had changed my method of paying premiums. As a result it failed to activate the new direct debit and started sending sterner and sterner letters accusing me of failing to pay my monthly premiums. Even a

telephone call to one of its mids failed to get to change its mind — only a strongly worded letter, copy to the Insurance Ombudsman, finally convinced it of its error.

The second case involved share registrars who disposed of my wife's shares on the instructions of an identically named lady (different address and not my bigamous partner) because my wife's record was the first one they found on the (guess what) ... computer. To add insult etc., they paid the proceeds to the other woman! It only came to light when my wife failed to receive her dividend.

The third (and hopefully

final) case involved my bank, with whom I have banked for 26 years and with whom my house is mortgaged. Despite my overdraft limit having been raised on 16 September, the computer accused me of having exceeded my (old) limit on 29 September — it even persuaded an incautious human to sign the letter. It didn't take the new limit into account, nor the fact that I am in very regular employment with a monthly pay cheque paid in on the last day of every month. In each of these cases, the initial problem occurred because a human had failed to instruct the computer correctly. I am pleased to record that

all three cases were resolved and redress made, but what makes me really cross is that my blood pressure is raised and I am subjected to extra work and cost because no-one took time to check the output from the computer.

In two cases, all it needed was for outletters of a critical nature to pass through a quality control which confirmed the facts before signing and despatching them. Yours faithfully, ANDREW NORTON, Rossiter, 17 Stein Road, Southbourne, Emsworth, Hampshire.

Poor company pensions deal for early leavers

From Mr Brian G. Rees Sir, Congratulations on your editorial (October 1) which rightly affirmed that employers' contributions to an occupational pension fund are deferred salary benefits. It is said that such a view has received little support, to date, amongst members of the National Association of Pension Funds.

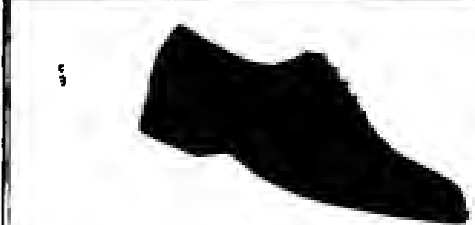
As a consequence, if you are one of many hundreds of thousands of occupational pension scheme members who have lost their jobs in the past decade, the full accrued value of pension contributions made by you and on your behalf is just not available to you.

For the vast majority of early leavers, pension contributions — expressed as deferred benefits, or in a transfer value — represent a very poor return on their own contributions, let alone those made by the employer, as "deferred salary". The interests of such

pensioners are invariably discounted when so-called "surpluses" are declared and distributed. This despite the fact that their contributions and those supposedly made on their behalf, have helped to create the surpluses in the first place.

In all the hype and emphasis on the prevention of fraud, eliminating this widespread injustice, which affects far more members, must not be overlooked. Dealt with equitably, it will allow far more occupational pension scheme members to receive pension benefits that their contributions merit and at the same time reduce demands on the social security system, which the government is also seeking to achieve.

Yours sincerely, BRIAN G. REES, 31 Longmeadow Drive, Sedgley, West Midlands.



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Lack of support

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin October 4. Dealings end October 15. Settlement day October 20. 8.00pm business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Div	Yld	P/E
494	494	Abey Ltd	415	-	11.5	3.5	14.0
495	495	Abey Ltd	415	-	11.5	3.5	14.0
496	496	Abey Ltd	415	-	11.5	3.5	14.0
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498	498	Abey Ltd	415	-	11.5	3.5	14.0
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مكذبا من الأصل

The long wave goodbye to Radio 5

The takeover of Radio 5 for 24-hour news and sports coverage means the BBC has yet another pressure group to deal with. Alexandra Frean watches its birth

Of all the BBC's blunders, none can rival its clumsy handling of the decision to sacrifice Radio 4's long-wave frequency to its proposed new 24-hour news station. The plan, first mooted in July 1992, resulted in the formation of the most powerful and successful audience pressure group ever to tackle the corporation, which this week forced the BBC to back down.

The controversy is, however, unlikely to die down, following the BBC board of governors' decision to scrap Radio 5 and replace it with a 24-hour service combining news and sport. The knock-on effect of these changes will also disrupt the schedules on Radios 3 and 4 as the corporation seeks homes for Radio 5's youth and education programmes, creating further disruption to the listening habits of yet more people.

It is scarcely credible that the corporation, which employs dozens of public relations staff, did not reckon with such public opposition. How did it get things so wrong?

Rachel Mawhood, who has been a driving force in the Save Radio 4 Long Wave Campaign, believes the answer lies largely in the corporation's complacency.

"It would have been much cleverer of them to make friends with us at the start," she says. "I'm sure we would have made a hash of it; after all, we are not professional lobbyists. Instead, they spurned the campaigners — they talked down to us from a great height."

Ms Mawhood, who is 42 and works as an assistant for a London businessman, says the BBC's own bureaucracy also worked against it. "If only senior people at the BBC had read their mail, instead of having it dealt with by anonymous

people who send out standard replies, they would have better understood the depth of public opposition to their plans," she says.

Led by a fiercely dedicated group of articulate middle-class activists, the long-wave campaign won the backing of 30,000 aggrieved listeners, who bombarded the corporation with letters and faxes and led a protest march on the corporation's Broadcasting House headquarters in London.

The campaign won the support of celebrities, including Sir John Gielgud, Dame Maggie Smith, Alan Ayckbourn and Sir George Solti. Without being asked, the Prince of Wales even championed their cause, publicly describing Radio 4 long wave last December as "a much-loved daily necessity".

The campaign led a weekly diet of faxes to national newspapers and put forward articulate representatives to keep the story in the public eye.

It was not as though the corporation had not encountered audience opposition before. In 1978, the BBC's plan to put Radio 4 on long wave was greeted with howls of disapproval from listeners. But fortunately for the campaigners, they had caught the BBC at a critical time.

They struck just as the corporation was poised precariously between a commitment to increase its accountability and a new drive to expand consumer choice by launching new services. The object of these changes was to curry government favour in the run-up to the renewal of the BBC's charter, which expires in 1996.

The corporation also faced a technological dilemma. At the heart of Radio 4 long-wave debate is the poor quality or lack of FM reception in parts of Britain. Restricting Radio 4 to FM would have cut off 2 million Radio 4 listeners in Britain and on the Continent.

One possible solution for the BBC would have been to wait about two years until the introduction of digital technology gave it more room on its existing frequencies to introduce a continuous news and sports service. Fearing the launch early next year of a rival 24-hour news radio station by the commercial sector, the corporation was not prepared to wait that long.

Having achieved their primary aim, the Radio 4 long-wave campaigners are now preparing to go back into battle, this time alongside their former rivals in the campaign



Save Radio 4 Long Wave campaigners and, inset, their badge. Now they have won their battle they are being recruited to the Radio 5 cause

to save Radio 5. The lobby for Radio 5, which is supported by about 200 MPs and a sprinkling of sporting celebrities, including Gary Lineker, never quite caught the public imagination in the same way as the Radio 4 campaign.

Only three years old and with a weekly audience of about 4.2 million, the sports, youth and education station, simply did not have the same appeal to many of the letter-writing middle classes as Radio 4 long wave. That is where its main weakness lay.

"Ours was a campaign fought and won on the basis of letters and faxes," Ms Mawhood says. "Now let's see what we can do for Radio 5 and its listeners."

A VICTORY FOR LISTENERS

THE BBC's decision to make Radio 5 the news/sport network is welcome — not only to cheering Save Radio 4 campaigners, writes Valerie Grove.

First, news and sport is a combo that makes sense. Even sport-hating listeners will have switched to Radio 5 for ace-by-ace Wimbledon, and many sat up until 2am to hear a blow-by-blow account of the Bruno-Lewis fight, which made thrilling radio.

Second, Radio 5 has not established an audience of lifelong loyalty to compare with Radio 4's — not because it lacks appeal, but it lacks the longevity. It was never properly promoted: Darny Baker (now gone to television) won his audience by sheer bulldozing word of mouth.

As for children's interests, which Radio 5 supplied with Andrew Sachs's *Wiggly Park*, and excellent stories and serialisations, we must trust the BBC's promise that these will not be abandoned.

Our children do not conform to the wireless-crazed norm of their parents' childhoods. They willingly listen to Martin Jarvis reading *William and Adrian Mole*, but these are already on Radio 4. It could easily accommodate more of the same.

But ultimately the news is welcome because it simplifies life. Radio 5 was a hotchpotch. It was too variable, like much local radio.

Now at least it has a proper function, and "our" Radio 4, though already changed despite the campaigning of the Prince of Wales and fellow crusaders, is recognisably still with us.



Stan Richards as Seth in ITV's top-rated Emmerdale

Chris Hopson urges Peter Brooke to let TV companies take each other over to preserve regional identities

Save ITV's jewel in the crown

During the past 37 years independent television has helped make British television the most admired in the world. The newly-released viewing figures for this summer's television series show how much that success is rooted in ITV's strong regional tradition.

Eight of the UK's top 20 series — *Coronation Street*, *Peak Practice*, *Heartbeat*, *Taggart*, *The Bill*, *The Chief*, *Emmerdale* and *London's Burning* — were ITV programmes whose appeal was based on their strong regional identity.

Where would *Taggart* be without its Glaswegian setting? *Emmerdale* without the Yorkshire Dales? Or *Coronation Street* without its north-western character?

Peter Brooke is currently thinking about whether to amend the franchise ownership rules of independent television. Perhaps the most important question he needs to answer is: what will preserve this regional tradition, the jewel in ITV's crown? The surprising answer is to turn conventional thinking on its head, and allow ITV companies to take each other over.

It is the division of independent television into 15 licence areas which enables the network to reflect the rich diversity and variety of Britain's regional culture. For example, the existence of separate licence areas for both the Borders and the South West means that their distinct geographic and cultural identities can be reflected within ITV.

Having 15 licence areas also means retaining 15 regional boards that can genuinely reflect and represent opinion within each region.

Ideally, each ITV licence holder should also demonstrate a firm commitment to regional programming. This should mean commissioning or making high quality programmes across the board: children's programmes, documentaries, light entertainment, sports and even drama programmes that seek to draw on and reflect the region's identity and cultural heritage.

ITV's problem is that this requires 15 regional licence holders with sufficient financial muscle to afford these commitments. The high prices paid for some licences and a relative decline in advertising revenues mean that a number of licence holders are finding it difficult to make the investment required.

The risk is that many regions will return to their early days, when programming meant cheap regional news programmes and studio discussions.

Maintaining ITV's strong regional tradition is therefore being left to a diminishing number of financially strong licence holders. For example, of this summer's top 50 series, 28 were made by the big five ITV companies, the highest proportion since 1984.

Allowing more takeovers within ITV would create a more financially stable network. It would still have 15 licences, but these would be held by a smaller number of better financed companies.

Each region's distinct identity is already enshrined in the regional licence conditions, including specific commitments on regional programming. These have to be enforced whoever holds the licence. Indeed, larger licence holders would be in a much better financial position to meet these conditions and resist the temptation to "cheese pare" on them.

With the backing of well financed licence holders, all of ITV's regions would be able to draw on their region's cultural heritage to make high quality programmes. These would be shown not just within their region but across the network as a whole, enhancing ITV's position as a genuinely federal television channel.

Clearly, no company should be allowed to gain a disproportionate share of ITV. No company should be allowed to own more than 25 per cent of

ITV — a figure which reflects current UK monopolies and mergers legislation and many EC countries' broadcasting legislation. Such a change can be implemented by amending the current takeover rules.

This change would, for example, prevent the merger of the two London franchises which, at a stroke, would allow one company to dominate the network. It would also preserve ITV's status as the only TV channel in this country not primarily run from London.

The Department of National Heritage must do all it can to encourage our television industry. Allowing a limited consolidation within ITV would enhance the network's most distinctive contribution to that industry — its emphasis on high quality regional television.

● The author is the new director of public affairs at Granada Television.

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Learn to speak a client's language

The value of multi-lingual staff is increasingly being recognised by companies. Beryl Dixon previews the London Language Show

The London Language Show opens tomorrow at the Business Design Centre, Islington, north London, and runs until Saturday, October 16.

Now in its fifth year, the show is for anyone interested in acquiring, or improving their knowledge of, a foreign language — from the familiar European tongues to the less familiar and more exotic languages, including Japanese, Norwegian and Estonian.

The show will be of interest to many different groups: from language teachers, parents and pupils, who can view the newest teaching aids, to businesses. Many companies now see the need to train their staff to communicate effectively in foreign languages and/or to employ professional interpreters. The show is also for individuals who want to explore the opportunities available for learning languages.

The show is continuing on Saturday for the first time this year to make it more accessible both to the general public and to anyone who is unable to negotiate time off work

during the week. Brintex, the show's organiser, is expecting a record attendance. "It has increased each year," says Bruce Campbell, the exhibition organiser. "It reached 5,500 last year and this year we expect to see in excess of 7,000."

Technology will be much in evidence. Multi-media language learning programmes using text, graphics, audio, video and interactive video will be on display. One example, aimed at adults, simulates the situations a user would experience if staying in a foreign country and immerses him or her in the language.

If you are the main linguist in your company, you may be interested in looking into methods of teaching others in the firm. For example, if your manager has decided to brush up on a language, you will be able to evaluate different methods and make suggestions to your manager based on your knowledge of his or her present ability.

You could also assess the benefit of "French for the Office" stickers. These display a range of words and

frequently used business expressions and can be attached to desktops, filing cabinets or displayed on walls. Topics for the seminars include "Strategic language training", which incorporates language training into human resource planning, and "Can we afford the risk of misunderstanding?" about using interpreters effectively.

If your company is considering employing freelance interpreters, you might want to investigate the pros and cons of doing so. Rita Day, of The Language Exchange, who is fluent in four languages, will be holding a seminar on this topic. She intends to concentrate on the circumstances in which managers should choose professionals, and the qualities to look for when employing one. "I also intend to focus on essential pointers for managers communicating through interpreters — such as the importance of thorough briefings, speed and so on," she says.

Visitors to the show who already speak a foreign language might like to try out some of the technological advances, including a range



Switchboard operators at the accountants Stoy Hayward use multi-lingual flip-over cards to deal with calls from foreign clients

of bilingual electronic dictionaries. Linguists may also want information about learning a second or third language in order to improve their curriculum vitae.

Special sessions are being held on the Saturday including "A taste of business German for beginners", "A taste of French business style" and "Come and Try" sessions in Japanese, Spanish, Italian and Russian. There is no need to book, although numbers for each will be limited to 50.

Each "class" will be taken by a tutor who will use his or her own combination of resources which

could include videos, audio cassettes and flip charts. The sessions will be conducted in a light-hearted manner, with participants learning initially the sounds of the languages and simple phrases.

If juniors in your office, or receptionists, sometimes have to speak to foreign clients on the telephone, you might find Bordertalkers from Agora Business Systems of interest. It is a small desk-top pack of flip-over cards in French, German, Italian and Spanish giving basic telephone phrases ("May I put you through to...?" "Could you repeat that please?"

"I'm sorry, he's out of the office until..." and so on). Numerals, days of the week and months are included, as is an audio cassette recorded by native speakers to assist with pronunciation.

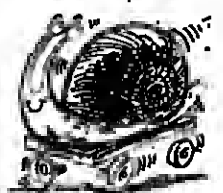
Stoy Hayward, the accountants and business advisers, bought the system after its training director Rob Doughty had been asked for language training by the switchboard team. "We didn't want to lose any business opportunities and have nominated language speakers throughout the firm," Mr Doughty says. "We needed our switchboard staff to understand foreign callers

and to be able to explain that they will be dealt with. Rather than expensive language courses, the switchboard required a basic ability to communicate with the caller until a linguist could take over."

Finally, if you can persuade your company to send you on a language course or feel inclined to spend any of your holidays learning languages, there will be a seminar entitled "Choosing the appropriate language course abroad for your needs" and displays from many organisations running courses in Britain and in other countries. Further information: 0926 632235

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Court of Appeal

Pension plus dismissal award

Norcross plc v Hopkins
Before Lord Justice Russell, Lord Justice Staughton and Lord Justice Slynn

[Judgment October 7]
A wrongfully dismissed employee who became entitled to payments from the employer's pension fund on his dismissal could recover damages for the wrongful dismissal without deduction of the pension payments.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the defendant employer, Norcross plc, against a decision of Mr David Latham, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge on April 9, 1992 that the plaintiff employee, John Hopkins, was entitled to recover £99,604 from the employer's pension fund in addition to the same sum in damages for wrongful dismissal.

Mr Philip Naughton, QC and Mr Adrian Lynch for the employer, Mr Stephen Auld for the employee.

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON said Mr Hopkins was born in October 1931 and became managing director of Norcross in January 1981. He had been summarily dismissed on November 15, 1989.

His contract of employment provided that he could not be dismissed until his normal retirement age, 60. So his dismissal was a breach of contract.

The contract of employment also provided that he should be a member of the company pension scheme. The scheme's rules provided that if Mr Hopkins ceased for any reason to be employed he was entitled to an immediate pension if he chose. Mr Hopkins had opted for his pension for life with his dismissal.

Solitors had agreed a partial settlement with damages for wrongful dismissal of £99,604. It was agreed that the amount should be received from the pension up to his sixtieth birthday was also £99,604.

The judge had decided that the receipts from the pension did not fall to be deducted from the damages. The employer had appealed against that decision claiming that as a matter of law Mr Hopkins should give credit for the pension payments.

The general rule as to damages for breach of contract was that the plaintiff should be awarded that

sum of money which would put him in the same position as he would have been had the contract been performed.

Credit had to be given in contract or tort for benefits received by the plaintiff as a result of the breach of contract or tort. But some collateral benefits, using the word "collateral" as a descriptive not a definitive word, were exempt from the requirement to give credit.

Those included money received through benevolence and the proceeds of insurance. *Parry v Cleaver* [1970] AC 1 showed that where the plaintiff's claim was for damages for personal injury the proceeds of a pension for disability did not fall to be deducted from the claim.

The reasoning in that decision was that in the case of insurance effected by the plaintiff he did not have to give credit because he had paid the premiums from his own money. A pension was in the same position as an insurance.

Attacks on the principle in *Parry v Cleaver* had failed in *Smoker v London Fire and Civil Defence Authority* [1991] 2 AC 502 and *Wood v British Coal Corporation* [1991] IRLR 22. While the prin-

ciple was sometimes said to produce double recovery there was nothing unlawful about that.

Mr Naughton had tried to distinguish *Parry v Cleaver* on two grounds: first, that the case concerned wrongful dismissal. But that was no ground for drawing a distinction.

The second ground was that *Parry v Cleaver* concerned a tort, while the instant case concerned breach of contract. His Lordship could see no ground for saying that was relevant.

There was also a faint suggestion in the US Second Restatement of the Law of Torts (Vol 4 (1979) p513) that the rule for contract might be different from that for tort. There was no ground for supposing that was the case in English law.

The court was bound by *Parry v Cleaver* to hold that Mr Hopkins' pension receipts were not to be deducted from his damages for wrongful dismissal. The appeal would be dismissed.

Lord Justice Russell and Lord Justice Slynn agreed.

Solicitors: Slaughter & May; Clifford Chance.

McLeish v Amoo-Gottfried & Co
Before Mr Justice Scott Baker

[Judgment July 26]
In awarding damages to a plaintiff negligently convicted of a criminal offence, due to the solicitor's negligence, a court could take into account any loss of reputation which had increased the plaintiff's mental distress.

Mr Justice Scott Baker so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division awarding the plaintiff, Ricardo McLeish, £5,250 damages in an action for negligence against his former solicitors, Amoo-Gottfried & Co.

The solicitors had acted for the plaintiff in criminal proceedings which had resulted in his conviction, on September 19, 1989, on two counts of common assault on a police officer and one count of possessing an offensive weapon. The plaintiff was fined £450. On November 8, 1991 the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division quashed all the convictions.

The solicitors admitted they had acted negligently in the conduct of the proceedings and the plaintiff's defence and the matter came before his Lordship for the assessment of damages.

Mr Andrew Goodman for the

plaintiff, Mr Roderick Doggett for the solicitors.

MR JUSTICE SCOTT BAKER said that the solicitors had conceded that if they had not acted negligently the overwhelming probability was that the plaintiff would have been acquitted.

Accordingly, his Lordship had approached the assessment of damages on the basis that the plaintiff would have been acquitted.

The plaintiff had claimed general damages under two heads, albeit accepting that one global award should be made. Those heads were (i) distress and mental anxiety (ii) injury to reputation.

Distress and mental anxiety. The very essence of the contract to act for the plaintiff in preparation for and at his trial had been to ensure his peace of mind by taking all appropriate steps to secure his acquittal if possible, and if not, to make the best possible case for him.

His Lordship had no doubt that it was foreseeable that the plaintiff would suffer mental distress if the solicitors conducted the preparation and trial negligently.

Injury to reputation. The plaintiff had argued that he was also entitled to damages for

injury to reputation. Here he ran into difficulty because of the long established principle that no damages were recoverable in cases of breach of contract for injury to the reputation: see *Addis v Gramophone Co Ltd* [1909] AC 488.

Nothing in the later cases, which had mapped out the retreat from the refusal of contract damages for mental distress, had so far suggested any comparable retreat for tarnished reputations. Damages were recoverable for loss of reputation in certain torts but no award was made in a case of negligence.

While satisfied that damages for loss of reputation could not be recovered in the instant case as a separate head of damage, it seemed to his Lordship that as a plaintiff was wrongfully convicted as a consequence of his solicitor's negligence, it was very difficult to draw a clear line between mental distress on the one hand and loss of reputation on the other. In so far as any loss of reputation was an integral part of the plaintiff's distress, his Lordship thought that that was a matter that could properly be taken into account.

If a vicar's wife was, through her solicitor's negligence, wrongfully convicted of shoplifting and her mental anguish was increased by what she believed the parishioners thought of her, his Lordship could not see why that did not enhance her damages.

The award.

The period of mental distress ran from the commencement of the trial, when it first became apparent that the solicitors were not defending the plaintiff properly, until the day the conviction had been set aside.

In fixing the amount of the award his Lordship had in mind in particular (i) the nature of the offences of which the plaintiff had been convicted and the penalty imposed; (ii) the length of time the conviction had stood; (iii) the particular effect on the plaintiff.

His Lordship had to do his best to put into terms of money something that could not truly be quantified in financial terms. His Lordship regarded awards in libel cases as irrelevant. In his Lordship's judgment the appropriate figure for general damages was £6,000.

Solicitors: Mr A. L. South, Sevenoaks; Wansboroughs Willey Hargrave.

Queen's Bench Division

Damages for mental distress

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Queen's Bench Dist
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NEW YORK, page 38
The Brooklyn Academy
of Music is a world-
beater, thanks to the
vision of this man

ARTS

BIOGRAPHY, page 39
Richard Holmes, solving
the mystery of Samuel
Johnson's early years
on the streets of London



EXHIBITIONS: An impressive new gallery opens in Birmingham; plus (below) Japan meets the West in Berlin

Canaletto shines in a new setting

Birmingham at last boasts a space large enough to house major loan exhibitions.

Richard Cork takes a look inside

Paying your gas bill in Edwardian Birmingham must have been oddly akin to visiting a cathedral. People with arrears to settle were expected to penetrate the immensity of a custom-built hall. Erected just beside the municipal museum at the heart of the city, this colossal edifice seems determined to overawe. Its columned interior, spectacularly top-lit by a curved glass roof, looks like a nave. And at either side is a series of smaller spaces resembling sidechapels, where visitors could deal with their overdue accounts in an appropriately repentant manner.

After a while, the building lost its quasi-religious aura. The mighty basilica deteriorated into partitioned offices, and only now has its initial grandeur been recovered. Desperate for a space large enough to house major loan shows, the city museum drove the bureaucrats out of the temple. With the help of Euro-funding, ratepayers' cash and a development appeal, a £4 million centre for temporary exhibitions opens there tomorrow. The former Gas Hall is transformed into a state-of-the-art gallery capable of housing over £100 million-worth of paintings and drawings by Canaletto and his contemporaries.

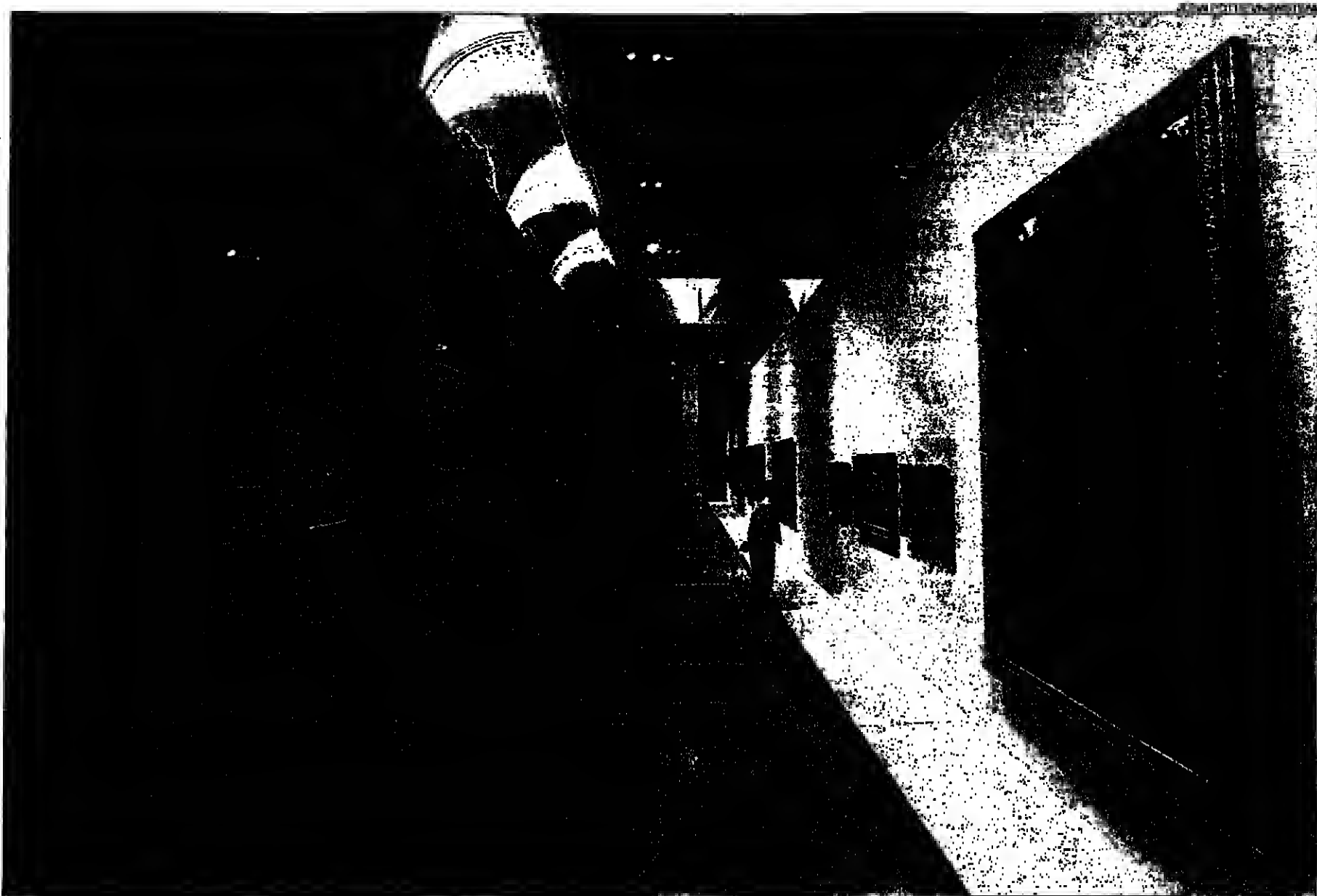
Nearly all of them were produced

during the Venetian's nine-year stay in England. He arrived here in May 1746, attracted by the extensive patronage already lavished on his work by British collectors. The thriving business he had built up at home was now threatened by the War of the Austrian Succession, which discouraged the British Grand Tourists from venturing as far as Venice. So Canaletto uprooted himself in the hope of obtaining further commissions from London's most bountiful picture-buyers.

It was a drastic step. Canaletto's entire reputation rested on his images of Venice, and he had no means of telling if a market existed for English views from his hand. Nor did he know whether his vision would be as compelling when applied to London scenes. But the 49-year-old artist was prepared to take the risk.

Historians have often adopted a condescending attitude to Canaletto's English paintings, regarding them as an anticlimax after the idyll he created in his native Venice. But Birmingham's pioneering survey, which sets his work firmly in the context of its time, proves otherwise. Although Canaletto began his London career by sticking close to the Thames, he did not merely rehash a Venetian recipe. Far from pretending that the river was just a wider version of the Grand Canal, he responded with alert eyes to his new subject.

At the behest of Sir Hugh Smithson, one of the commissioners of the new Westminster Bridge, he presented the Thames in a commandingly original way. For his vantage was taken, not from the river's edge, but inside an arch of the bridge-in-progress. The wooden buttress still supporting the stone-work provides a bold foreground



Inside Birmingham's newly converted Gas Hall: erected just beside the municipal museum at the heart of the city, this colossal edifice seems determined to overawe

silhouette for the composition, with a workman's bucket dangling from the beams. As well as giving the picture a dramatic framing structure, this immense arch symbolises the enterprise of a city wealthy enough to transform itself by building ambitious new structures. The contrast with Venice must have been absolute. While the Serene Republic was declining, London had embarked on an era of irrefragable expansion. The completed Westminster Bridge is celebrated three years later, in a festive painting where the Lord Mayor's blue-topped City barge floats on sparkling water among a cluster of equally gilded vessels. The splendour of Venetian civic processions is evoked here, and the placid blue sky seems nearer to Italy than

England. But Canaletto did not merely indulge in fantasy when painting London. His meticulous drawings show how closely he adhered to the facts of a given scene, and even his most exalted prospect of the city remains faithful to its architecture. By far the most delectable painting in the survey is *The Thames and the City of London from Richmond House*. Lent from Goodwood, this beguiling view was commissioned by the Duke of Richmond and probably taken from an upper back window of his metropolitan home. London must have been at its most seductive in the mid-18th century, and Canaletto's canvas defines its magical essence.

But poise and harmony give way

to urban untidiness in the other Richmond view, looking north from the Duke's house towards Whitehall. An expanse of empty ground fills almost half the picture, left over from the disastrous burning of the royal palace. Inigo Jones's Banqueting House rises like an isolated stump, and the Holbein Gate opposite provides a solitary reminder of Tudor London. The overall image is of a city waiting to be changed. The Duke is depicted with a surprising lack of ceremony, emerging from a stable-block near chickens and a washing-line. On the other side of the wall, a man urinates in the shadows. This is Canaletto the realist rather than the confectioner, and the directness of his gaze still looks tenacious.

His skill and originality pro-

voked envy among English painters who felt threatened by the intruder's presence. Rumours abounded that he was avaricious, relying excessively on studio assistants. Some even claimed that he was an impersonator, that the real Canaletto still lived in Venice. The artist tried to circumvent this malice by communicating directly with potential patrons. In 1749 he placed an advertisement in the *Daily Advertiser*, declaring that "Signor Canaletto [sic] hereby invites any Gentleman that will be pleased to come to his House, to see a Picture done by him." The painting was probably the panoramic view of the Old Horse Guards from St James's Park, now owned by the Lloyd Webber Art Foundation. Full of lively details

like the pot-bellied pedestrian and the servants beating a carpet, this large and diligent painting nevertheless fails to excite. Perhaps Canaletto tried too hard to turn it into a showpiece.

He is far more winning on a modest scale, defining the playful intricacy of Old Walton Bridge against a stormy sky flecked with seagulls. But within a year he had returned to Venice. Nearing 60, he probably wanted to spend his final years at home. The finest of his English pictures prove, however, that the northern sojourn had regenerated Canaletto's art and set a stimulating challenge to the rivals he left behind.

● Canaletto & England opens tomorrow at the Gas Hall, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham (021-235 1966) until Jan 9

East and West in perspective

Exhibitions about the relations between Europe and somewhere else nearly always see the subject mostly from the European point of view. Japan and Europe at the Martin-Gropius-Bau in Berlin, centrepiece of this year's Festwochen, is not at all like that. As far as possible everything is seen from the Japanese point of view.

This, to begin with, could be summed up in the giant early 17th-century coloured map of the world (on a screen, inevitably) in which Japan, naturally, is shown almost exactly the size of the United States. Of course, the very idea of a world map comes from Europe — the show includes a couple of examples which arrived in Japan early and are displayed, Japanese-style, as hanging scrolls. But even then the Japanese saw these as raw material, to be reshaped without excessive reverence.

Early on there is a clear difference between European-influenced works intended for home consumption, and those intended for Europeans, to meet visitors' requirements. There are, for example, a series of painted screens closely based on imported models, but often with gilded Japanese skies gleaming above modestly convincing western cities and people. But there are also prints and drawings where the first westerners (mostly Dutch) are shown as scarcely human monsters. There is even a variation on the familiar erotic shunga print, with a none-too-pleased-looking courtesan taken by a fiercely bearded pirate type.

Things calm down after a while. From the first Japanese are fascinated by European technology, and throw themselves enthusiastically into mastering it. They are also pleased by the European fascination with oriental porcelain

and soon see a way to exploit it with wares made specifically for export. By the end of the 18th century they are learning something of the European way of seeing landscape.

By the middle of the 19th century European influence in Japan is unmistakably stronger, as it would be once the country was officially opened to foreigners after 1853. Up to this point and beyond, one is left with a definite feeling that in all relations Japan is in control. The last decades of the 19th century, however, as well as representing the high point of the western obsession with all things Japanese, seem to signal the nemesis of Japanese art at home.

In any case, for all the obsession with Japanese design, remarkably little except superficialities seems to have rubbed off. Even Monet, who eventually came to understand the Japanese floating world was all about, in his earlier days fell for the merely picturesque side of Japonaiserie.

The most effective western fusion of European technique and Japanese aesthetics at this period is to be found in the exquisitely coloured art-glass of makers like Galle and Daum, with its floral motifs wandering in apparent arbitrariness over and around the basic shape to achieve the informal balance of a classic Japanese flower arrangement.

The possibility of such a fusion, favourable to both sides, did still exist in Japan around the turn of the century. Further into the 20th century, something is undeniably lost. As more Japanese artists travelled to Europe to study, sedulous imitation became the order of the day.

It is not that the works in question are not well done in their fashion, but the artists'



An 18th-19th century Japanese painting by Sakaki Yurin

complete abandonment of their own heritage is rather saddening. Some traces remain, nevertheless. Perhaps it is not had to leave on the note of Foujita's *Interior*, a self-portrait painted in Paris in 1923. When the rest of the Europeanised Japanese came, saw and were conquered, Foujita, slight and fragile though his work seems to be,

was clearly an iron butterfly in the Japanese tradition which saw no necessary contradiction between extreme delicacy and high tensile strength.

● Japan und Europa 1543-1929, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Stresemannstr. 110 Berlin (30-254860), to December 12

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

TELEVISION REVIEW: Too much detail, not enough truth about Alexander Korda

Peter Sarsy's two-part omnibus film about Sir Alexander Korda, which concluded last night (BBC1), must be one of the most top-heavy arts documentaries ever made. Rarely have so many witnesses been called in the cause of so little illumination. Where was Korda in all this? Where was his relationship with his brothers, Zoltan and Vincent? What, even, were his achievements?

In exhaustively tracing so many Hungarians, Americans and Brits; friends, relatives and colleagues; academics, admirers and the odd detractor, Sarsy seemed to lose sight of his goal: to rediscover this colossus of British cinema who died, in 1956, before Sarsy (a fellow Hungarian) ever met him.

Arguably the proper story of these programmes was the elusiveness of their quarry. Even Korda's personal doctor — said to be the person who knew him best — gloomily

Nothing up his sleeve

admitted: "I ought to have liked him... but I was more sorry for him." Korda's most attractive quality was his ability to make a Hollywood in England without apparently worrying about the expense.

Part two dealt with the war and beyond. Was Korda involved in British intelligence? How far was his 1941 Hollywood success, *That Hamilton Woman* (or *Lady Hamilton*, as we know it here), a propagandist call to arms? ("You cannot make peace with dictators" thunders Laurence Olivier as Nelson, gesticulating with just the one arm. "You have to destroy them!")

By this time Korda was a British subject; he stamped patriotism on his films,

reached the top of the establishment and (presumably) accumulated wealth. After the war he borrowed (and lost) £3 million from the government to acquire a controlling interest in British Lion and purchase Shepperton Studios.

Sarsy obviously did an enormous amount of leg-work — the selection of apt clips from Korda's pictures was alone a true labour of love — but the ultimate effect of all these witnesses was bewildering. Spread out so thinly, the story lost its way. "He was lonely in his marriage," said Steven Paltos ("business partner"). "He wanted to be on his yacht," said "producer" Sir Anthony Havelock-Allen. "Alex only loved one person,

he loved Alex," said André de Toth ("film director").

But who are these people? Is it really worth having them, just to speak once? Why not write a commentary which says the man was vain, loveless, and had a big boy?

Korda's death and burial were widely separated events. The main hold-up was that Peter Korda's son by his first wife Maria, denied his father's Jewishness. Meanwhile, Graham Greene held that, given the choice, Korda would have been a Catholic. Whether he was a religious man at all we never learnt.

The best and most impressive description of Korda was as "prestidigitateur" (conjurer), contributed by the journalist David Lewin. It was a great television moment. I mean, when was the last time you heard someone say "prestidigitateur" without clearing his throat half way through?

LYNNE TRUSS

ROCK IN PARIS

Let there be drums

agape, soaked by rain on one of the coldest early autumn nights in living memory.

No child questioned exactly what the 19 men (who, warning to their task, had quickly stripped to their waists) were doing. A few hairy men capered about fitfully.

The immediate experience of the Tambours is of a primitive rhythm section which stresses bombast and unity. For British audiences, their muscular, even homoerotic, performances are redolent of Test Department or Einstürzende Neubauten, both bands who exist at the performance art end of the musical spectrum. The Tambours' own point of reference is with African drumming, in particular the Drummers of Burundi, a popular ensemble in France.

However, the rhythms of the Burundi speak of a cultural continuity transmitted through generations. Not so the Tambours. With their smashed olddrums and pounding sticks, the sense conveyed is one of communal dislocation caused by the decline of the traditional industrial base.

The Tambours come from Varennes Vauzelles in Nevers, an area which until a few years ago housed the railroad factories where their fathers worked. Locals renamed the soot-stained town after New York's Bronx. Many of the band's fans see the Tambours as representing the rhythm of the industrial worker and his relationship to machines and repetition.

The loudest message of all comes from their African drumming references and

concerns a solidarity with their country's mixed population. France is experiencing a volatile upsurge in racist politics and the Tambours present a vigorous rebuttal.

LOUISE GRAY

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LONDON

BARBER OF SEVILLE: Jonathan Miller's lively production of Rossini's comedy returns to ENO, managed by John Abujela and Henry B. Lill. James Holmes conducts. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 3151), 7.30pm.

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF EUROPE: Labor Pilek conducts Smetana (overture to *The Bartered Bride*), Mahler (the Song from Das Knaben Wunderhorn), Dvorak (Symphony No 5 in F), Linda Furne, mezzo-soprano, is the soloist. Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8811), 7.30pm.

MEDIA: Diana Rigg returns to the West End in Europe's tragedy of a woman's ravings. Directed by Jonathan Kent and first seen at the Almeida last year. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-887 1116), Previews begin tonight, 8pm. Opens Oct 18, 7.30pm.

BEN NICHOLSON: Next year is the centenary of the artist's birth. Nicholson's work has been somewhat since his death in 1982 but this comprehensive show, taking him from representation to abstraction and back again, should make the debate renaître.

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL: Peter Hall's clear production of one of the "problem plays". Sophie Thompson plays the determined husband-hunter. P.M. Sackton Centre, EC2 (071-638 8811) Tonight and Thurs, 7.30pm, mat Thurs, 2.00pm.

BOHEMIAN LIGHTS: Valle-Inclán's vision of a country in turmoil, transported from 1924 Spain to 1919 Dublin. Gate, Pembroke Road, W11 (071-229 0706) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, 10.15pm.

CITY OF ANGLES: Lany Gilbert / Cy Coleman musical, packed with wit, set in L.A. and the world of the private eye movie. Prince of Wales, Coventry Street, W1 (071-836 5870), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Wed, Sat, 2.30pm, 10.15pm.

HAIR: A pleasurable stroll down memory lane. Michael Bogdanov directs. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (071-428 7515), Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Fri, Sat, 4pm, 10.15pm.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS: Stephen Daldry's reimagined version of Pinter's social thriller. National, Aldwych, WC2 (071-786 6404), Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8pm and 8.15pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm.

JAMBAU VU: The acoustic accompaniment of a musical. Directed by David Hare. National, Aldwych, WC2 (071-786 6404), Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8pm and 8.15pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm.

MACHINAL: Stephen Daldry's second production here. The American Sophie Treadwell's expressionist drama from 1928. Floral Show plays a woman battling against the pressure of a

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

THE GALLERY: M&M, SW1 (071-887 8008). Operas today to Jan 8, Mon-Sat, 10am-5.50pm; Sun 2.00-5.50pm.

PICKWICK: Harry Secombe belts out "I Faked the World" as boldly as he sang it 50 years ago. A noble musical but good-hearted and bouncy. A transfer from Chichester. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (071-278 8719). Gals opening tonight, 7.30pm.

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: Simon Rattle conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in a programme of Mozart (Piano Concerto No 21 in C major, K455) and Bruckner (Symphony No 9). Riccardo Chailly, winner of the 1993 Leeds Harvey's International Piano Competition, is the soloist. Symphony Hall, Broad Street (021-212 3333), 7.30pm.

EDINBURGH: Theatre Theatre, the Scottish theatre group, having worked

with her own version of Zola's second writer. Visiting theatre company at the sign of gull and green rooster. Young Vic, 60 The Oct, SE1 (071-928 6822), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm and some Weds.

TIME OF MY LIFE: One of Ayckbourn's best family plays, set in three different restaurants and moving back and forth in time. Aron Becker and Owen Taylor, as the older couple, head an excellent cast. Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-836 5087), Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8pm; mat Weds 2.30pm, Sat 4pm.

VITA AND VIRGINIA: Eileen Adair's play based on Virginia Woolf's crush on Vita Savile-West, with herself and Penelope Wilton. Ambassadors, West St, WC2 (071-836 6111), Tue-Sat, 8pm; mat Wed 2.30pm, Sat 11am, Sun 3.30pm.

LONG RUNNERS: (1) Blood Brothers, Phoenix (071-887 0444) (2) Badly, Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) (3) Caste, New Vic (071-405 0172) (4) Caste, New Vic (071-405 0172) (5) Caste, New Vic (071-405 0172) (6) Caste, New Vic (071-405 0172) (7) Caste, New Vic (071-405 0172) (8) Caste, New Vic (071-405 0172) (9) Caste, New Vic (071-405 0172) (10) Caste, New Vic (071-405 0172) (11) Caste, New Vic (071-405 0172) (12) Caste, New Vic (071-405 0172) (13) Caste, New Vic (071-405 0172) (14) Caste, New Vic (071-405 0172) (15) Caste, New Vic (071-405 0172) (16) Caste, New Vic (071-405 0172) (17) Caste, New Vic (071-405 0172) (18) Caste, New Vic (071-405 0172) (19) Caste, New Vic (071-405 0172) (20) Caste, New Vic (071-405 0172) (21) Caste, New Vic (071-405 0172) (22) Caste, New Vic (071-405 0172) (23) Caste, New Vic (071-405 0172) (24) Caste, New Vic (071-405 0172) (25) Caste, New Vic (071-405 0172) (26) Caste, New Vic (071-405 0172) (27) Caste, New Vic (071-405 0172) (28) Caste, New Vic (071-405 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Behaviour of the doc in the night

Richard Holmes had a mystery to solve in his study of Samuel Johnson's early years. Peter Lewis reports on the Savage truths

What more can be discovered about Dr Johnson, so thoroughly biographed by Boswell and many others that readers feel they almost knew him personally? The over-familiarity of the subject did not daunt the biographer Richard Holmes when he started making notes and composing imaginary conversations between the young Johnson of 27 and the poet Richard Savage, the scandalous friend of his first years in London.

"I scented a mystery, something to be solved," Holmes says. "It seemed inexplicable that the Johnson described by Boswell should have been an intimate friend of a man like Savage who, for the two years they knew each other, was penniless and living on the streets."

Savage, now unread, was then reckoned with such names as Alexander Pope, who recommended his name for Poet Laureate and repeatedly bled out his spendthrift but ungrateful friend financially. Savage claimed aristocratic descent and was made famous by his trial for killing a man in a coffee house brawl (only the Queen's pardon saved him from the gallows). Boswell sounds acutely embarrassed by Johnson's friendship with this man of "profligacy, insolence and ingratitude", with whom Johnson wandered whole nights in the streets and, Boswell hints, may have been drawn into dissipation which later "caused distress to his virtuous mind".

Not, however, when Savage died in a debtors' prison and Johnson, still an anonymous journalist on the *Gentleman's Magazine*, lost no time in writing Savage's eccentric and exasperating life as his first published book. It not only made Johnson's reputation, it created the modern genre of biography. Holmes says — the other great founding example being Boswell's *Life*. "No one had written a critical literary biography before, and it was revolutionary as the biography of a

notorious failure. When I re-read it I began to see the young Johnson reflected in it, as in a window, as a completely different being from the powerful, domineering figure Boswell created."

"I learnt to like the young Johnson very much, with his big heart and his powerful intelligence. He wasn't 'Dr Johnson' then. I'm not sure I like the older Johnson so much."

"Biographers cast an image on their subjects according to the patterns of their own personalities. There's always an element of dis-

placed autobiography. Johnson's book was deeply biased. In their night walks Savage had opened up the city to him. Savage probably did take him to all sorts of extraordinary dives in the Hogarthian alleys of 18th-century London. Johnson's book almost whitewashes Savage, but he was very perceptive about his moral failings."

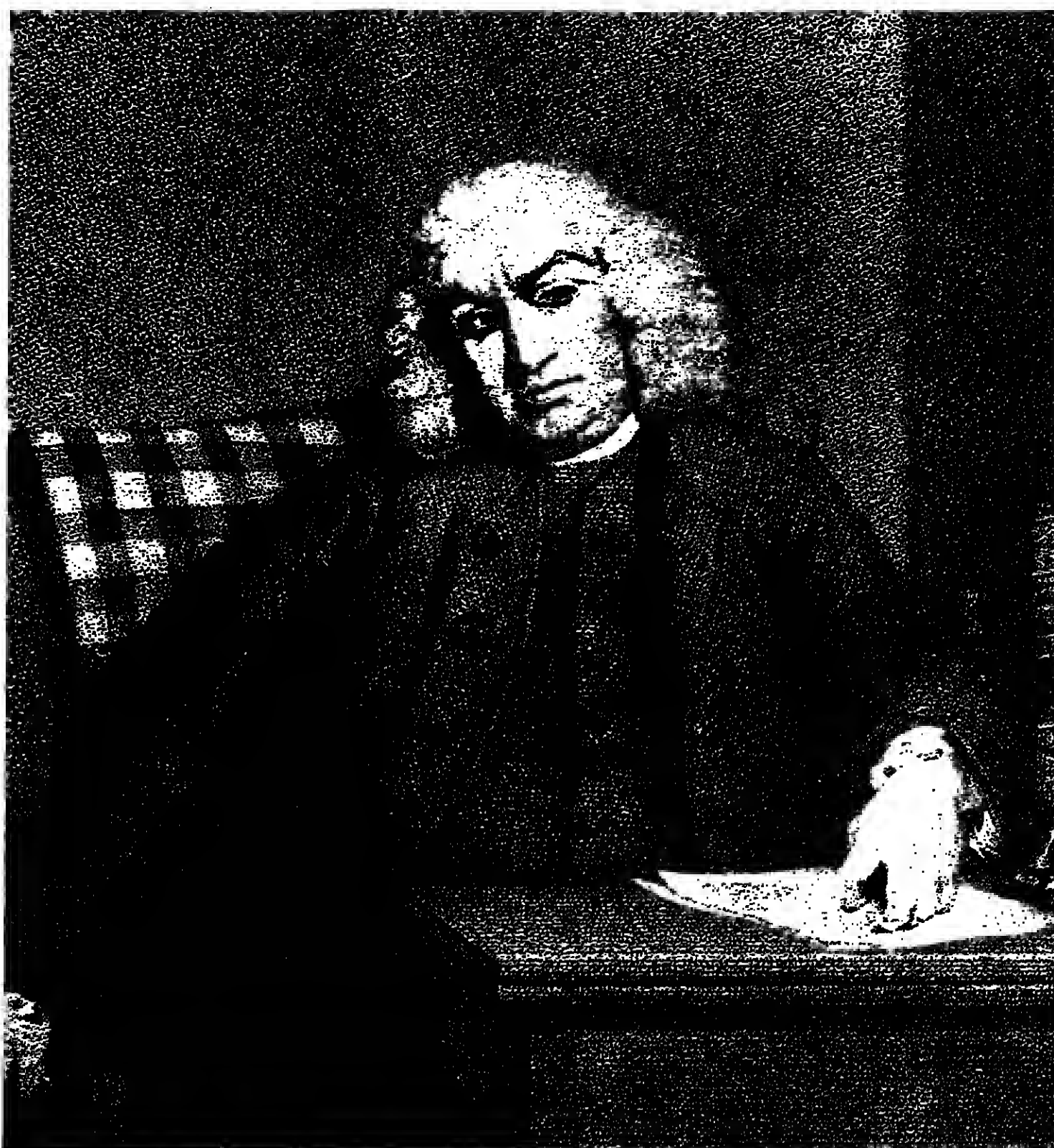


Holmes: the biographer as literary detective

Just as Johnson, with his awkward, lumbering frame, unstable marriage and precarious livelihood from Grib Street journalism, projected his own emotional insecurity into his life of Savage, so did Boswell project his needs into his life of Johnson. He played down Johnson's susceptibility to women. He devoted only 4 per cent of his *Life* to Johnson's first ten years in London, a side of him he had not known. "Boswell was 23 when he met Johnson, who was 54, and saw him as a sage, a father figure and moral counsellor. It is not surprising that he didn't like to think of him as a young man on the loose in London. I wrote this book in order to draw the young Johnson out of the shadow that Boswell cast."

Of course, Holmes in his turn may be projecting an element of autobiography on to his subject. He describes himself as a Romantic biographer. "I am drawn to the really deep past," he says. "I love crossing the historical gap — my minimum is 100 years."

At the age of 18 Holmes followed the travels of Robert Louis Steven-



"I learnt to like the young Johnson very much, with his big heart and his powerful intelligence," Richard Holmes says about the great man

son in the Cevennes — without the donkey — sleeping out romantically under the stars and half expecting to find Stevenson, of whom the locals spoke as if he had passed by only the previous week, waiting for him round the next bend.

He learnt the lesson that however passionately you follow footsteps into the past you could never catch the person who made them. But you could write about the pursuit in a way that brought it alive for the present. He was to spend three years pursuing Shelley, "possessed" by him until writing the book became an act of exorcism.

He dates his beginnings as a

professional biographer from the day in 1972 when he dated a cheque 1772. It bounced. But *Shelley: The Pursuit* did not. It re-drew the map not only of Shelley, whose image until then was the delicate angel of the Victorians, but of the style of literary biography. More recently the first of his two volumes on Coleridge won the Whitbread prize and broke through from the literary public to attract a wide general readership.

The essential gift for a biographer, Holmes says, is empathy. "You can't understand the exterior facts of anyone's life until you move into their identity. Later you must

equally step back out again. This happens when you start writing, moving from life to judgement." At the identification stage, he speaks of creating an imaginary relationship "as if your subject can talk back". The physical presence of the young Johnson came to him slowly — "instead of two years, the book took more than three."

He says that people have always questioned whether biography can be trusted, but feels that so long as it is under challenge, it is alive. "I love the form. It's hopeful and human. I don't mean our business is wishful thinking, but looking at the facts and asking: 'What is the pattern?'"

"I don't subscribe to the philosophic view that life has no pattern and no meaning. Biography is concerned with the nature of human truth, with asking how well we can know someone else," Holmes says. "Again and again the biographer concludes that it is possible to know another person. Lives do have a certain pattern and one of the purposes of biography is to find moral sense or meaning in a life. And it was this, in the life of his friend Savage, that Johnson first put on the agenda."

Dr Johnson & Mr Savage is published tomorrow by Hodder & Stoughton (£19.99)

ARTS BRIEFING

Curtains curtailed

NO SOONER had it been announced than it was curtailed. The Grigorovich Ballet of the Bolshoi Theatre, a troupe of 80 young Bolshoi dancers, is making its first visit to Britain and Ireland this month. But instead of a tour that would keep the company in Britain until the end of November, as originally planned, the dancers will be going home after an engagement in Cork from October 28 to 30. According to a spokesman for the promoter, Derek Block, the British tour has been cut back by more than half due to problems with visa requirements for the company's forthcoming American tour. The UK visit opens at London's Grosvenor House Hotel on Saturday.

ONCE Patrick Stewart was known as a sterling member of the Royal Shakespeare Company: his roles included Shakespeare's King John and Shylock, and Chekhov's *Astrov*. Then he moved to Los Angeles to become famous as Jean-Luc Picard in *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. But he has spent two recent Christmases on Broadway, playing all 39 characters in *A Christmas Carol*. Come Yuletide this year, and it will be his native country's turn to see this reputed tour de force. Stewart returns to Scrooge it up at some as-yet-unspecified West End theatre from December 27.

On his toes

PETER Schaufuss is on the move again. After just three years in Berlin, he gives up his post as ballet director at the Deutsche Oper at the end of December, and will return to his home town of Copenhagen ready to take command of the Royal Danish Ballet next summer. He was formerly with English National Ballet.

Last chance...

NOSTALGIA rules in "Forces Sweetheart" at the Imperial War Museum (071-416 5000), which looks at the history of the wartime romance from the first world war to the Gulf war. It includes, of course, the pin-ups and their derivatives. Then there are the clothes — more or less austere — that war brides wore, the curiously touching kitsch souvenirs, the letters, snapshots and, always, Vera Lynn. Until Friday.



Jonathan Coy, Deborah Findlay and Trilby James in a scene from *Keyboard Skills*

Estranged bedfellows

WHAT every woman knows, as Sir James Barrie pointed out, is that behind every aspiring politician stands a loyal, self-effacing wife. *Keyboard Skills*, Lesley Bruce's tart comedy at the Bush, adds a gloss to this axiom: in front of every supportive political wife there stands a booby.

Not just a simple booby, either, but a vain and pathetic creep, rotted by self-interest and no longer bothering, nor perhaps able, to separate his lies from the truth. If he is also a minister, whose enforced resignation would engulf the government in crisis, he can rely on colleagues, seniors and the dirty tricks brigade to work through the night to save him from the consequences of his lechery.

Bernard is just such a minister, and we first see him staggering home in a shattered condition to the double-bed on which Caroline, his bed on which Caroline, his loyal, attentive (see above) wife, has sat up waiting for his return. A horrible thing happened on the way back from Whitehall and, scrap by scrap, the embarrassing facts are squeezed out of him by her patient, puzzled questioning. Was he delayed at a meeting? Oh, he was at a pub. But

THEATRE: Savage comedy in the story of a wife in politics

on the other side of London? Is he having an affair? Yes. No. Yes. No. Don't keep asking me these questions! What sort of man do you think I am? Well, of course, he is the creepy pathetic sort, and Jonathan Coy's performance sweats panic and self-pity. Now maudlin, now aggressive, sulking, quaking with terror — "You can have all manner of dreams," he bleats, "slugging your guts out" — yet one tiny blot can end a life devoted to the service of his belief. When the doorbell rings — police? The press? — rings stands awaiting his fate Coy stands stuck forward, with his head stuck forward, like a tortoise stripped of all its shelly protection.

The Bush stage looks deeper than ever before — have they knocked down a wall? — so deep that Robin Don's set allows for a silver curtain to be whisked up and Marcia Warwhisked to come hurtling forward

on a little podium to instruct her class of shorthand students on how to become the perfect PA. She is Miss Gainsborough, proprietress of a secretarial academy, and although secretaries pop up throughout the play, their recurring presence does not really justify their teacher's regular reappearance. But Warren is so perfectly like everyone's efficient maiden aunt — gesture of hand, tone of voice, touch of hauteur — that I would not have been denied one moment of her performance.

Encouraging us to place little trust in our legislators, the play puts this statement into the uncouthly confiding bedside speech of another MP (Jason Watkins, ever so wary and smooth) who has been brought in to save his minister's shabby skin. Deborah Findlay gives Caroline an excellent range of sarcasm, irony and, finally, physical violence. Trilby James plays Caroline's younger self with the right perkiness, and the play is directed with relish by Geraldine McEwan. I enjoyed it immensely.

JEREMY KINGSTON

CONCERTS: Northern Sinfonia sparkle unseen in Darlington; the Smith Quartet crackle in vain in Islington

Top guns with no chambers

bars, the task of direction seemed to become ever easier as the cello playing became ever more inspired.

As for the present quality of the Sinfonia strings, it would have been easier to come to some positive conclusion if the promised performance of

Nicholas Maw's challengingly scored *Life Studies* had actually taken place. Dropped from the programme because of the illness of a key player, it was replaced by a witty performance by Schiff of Henze's delightful little *Serenade* for unaccompanied cello.

But Mozart's "Prague" Symphony offered no reason to believe that, in spite of an evidently large turnover of personnel in recent years, the string section is any less responsive, any less conscientious and any less accomplished than it always was.

GERALD LARNER



Heinrich Schiff filled in as soloist for Northern Sinfonia

Strange ways, here we come

Emphasising premieres, new commissions and collaborations, the Smith Quartet's series of three Sunday evening concerts at the Almeida explores and expands the expressive range of the traditional string quartet. The aim is laudable, and "new wave" quartets such as the Kronos, the Balanescu and the Smiths have certainly attracted a considerable crossover audience. But second-rate music remains second-rate even when played with commitment and panache by people in amusing waistcoats.

Commitment (and waistcoats) the Smiths have in plenty, but on this showing at least, they lack the style and assurance of some of their peers. They also lack the resources to do justice to their enthusiasm for electro-acoustic music. The thematic tangles and shifts of focus in Russell Pinkston's *Don't Look Now*, for instance, the first work in this second Almeida concert, are potentially intriguing, but the distinction between live and electronic string sounds needs to be less obvious than it is here.

Similarly, Ezequiel Vinac's *La Noche de Las Noches*, a

sequence of seven concentrated, evocative pieces, was robbed of some of its austere theatrical force by a technical hitch. In the first world after the interval, Stephen Montague's otherwise unremarkable arrangement of four songs by Charles Ives, the electronics would have been better dispensed with altogether.

The soloist in the Ives, stylistically not entirely integrated with the quartet, was Sarah Leonard, who also sang the unsympathetic vocal part in a quartet version of Michael Nyman's overblown *Miserere*. Nyman's ebullient Second Quartet brought the programme to a spirited close, but the work that dominated the evening was the main piece in the first half: John Cage's enigmatic *String Quartet in Four Parts* (1950). A deadpan exploration of minimal material within severe and self-imposed limitations, it has often seemed an almost deliberate dead end in the history of the medium. Here it emerged, for better or worse, as a key work in the tradition to which quartets like the Smiths are dedicating their careers.

IAN BRUNSKILL

FESTIVALS: Revolt in the Valleys

Bland of our fathers

and the Heads of the Valleys Choir) and mezzo-soprano and tenor soloists (Phillipa Reeves and Stephen Chaundy) in unfurling the sad chronicle of days gone by.

Welcomed to the platform with the loudest and longest applause of the evening, Michael Foot narrated, in powerful dry declamation, the tale of the struggle for parliamentary representation among mining communities who earned 18 shillings a week (16d for children), and who were for-

bidden to organise themselves politically in any way. Continents from Porthpool, Ebbw Vale (Foot's old constituency), and Blackwood marched on Newport; but the element of surprise was lost. Those not killed by troops were transported to convict settlements in Australia.

Birch's score, conducted with commitment by Nigel Weeks, began promisingly enough, with the gentle patter of percussion and tubas, followed by a chorus. "The

World is Dark", immediately reminiscent of Tippett's *A Child of Our Time*. There was a similar sense of chill apprehension: but this was soon dissipated and finally let down by the slow-moving, unrelentingly lugubrious first half which made the dramatic mistake of speaking more in sorrow than in anger.

Tension could have been built through much tougher and more challenging contrapuntal writing for voices, and bolder harmonic turns of di-

rection, to follow the unrest and mobilisation of the mob. Despite some idiomatic brass writing, the singers were left unstretched, with the blandest of choruses and a surfeit of sorrowful solos.

Birch was undoubtedly seeing the work's tragic end in its beginning. But the odd shot of jazz for the bustle of the petition signing, a succession of short marches, and a brief percussive skirmish were simply too little too late.

HILARY FINCH

On Noël Goodwin's review yesterday of Marvin Hamlisch's *Anatomy of Peace*, the boy soloist was Connor Surrowes.

Charlton rejects talk of draw against Spain as Dublin prepares for physical encounter

Ireland intent on victory to secure place in finals

FROM PETER BALL IN DUBLIN

GROUP THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ireland	10	7	3	0	17	2	17
Denmark	10	6	3	1	14	2	14
Spain	10	6	3	1	23	3	15
Norway	10	5	2	3	13	11	12
Latvia	10	0	0	10	2	21	0
Albania	10	1	2	7	8	28	4

FIXTURES: Today: Ireland v Spain; Denmark v Norway; Nov 17: N Ireland v Ireland; Spain v Denmark.

BY BEATING Spain at Lansdowne Road this afternoon, Ireland will become the first of the British Isles teams to claim a place in the 1994 World Cup finals. If they do, they will do so by a narrow margin, as they will have to overcome the odds of a draw against Spain in the final group game.

Any other result will leave things in abeyance at least until the meeting between Denmark and Northern Ireland this evening and more probably until the final matches in Belfast and Seville next month. A draw, leaving Spain needing to beat Denmark in Seville and the Republic needing a point from their visit north, would thus be acceptable to both teams.

In other circumstances, that could lead to the worst of football's cynical ploys, an arrangement with both sides keeping their powder dry. With Ireland involved, such a scenario is unthinkable. "We want to win and get it out of the way," Jack Charlton, their manager, growled yesterday when a questioner suggested that he might be happy with a draw.

Stakes are high in every sense. Today's match is the single richest event in the history of Irish sport. Gate

receipts will produce IR£640,000, and sponsorship and television fees will increase the income to IR£2.4 million.

But that is small beer by comparison with the rewards for reaching the World Cup finals. Spanish officials have talked about failure costing them £30 million, and if that seems inflated, the Football Association of Ireland believe that they can count on a minimum of IR£2 million from the pay-out from Fifa, the world governing body, and from advertising.

Such financial incentives do not help calm heads, and if an arrangement is inconceivable, a brutal match is not. "To say we are a physical side is nonsense," Charlton said, but it is a charge often levelled against British teams, and Ireland's combination of long balls aimed at a big target man and a quartet harrying

midfield players is the stuff of Iberian nightmares.

The remarks of the Spanish coach, Javier Clemente, have only fuelled the fears. "It will be hell in Dublin. I'm preparing my boys to go to war in Ireland," Clemente was quoted as saying at the weekend.

Four years ago, when Ireland overwhelmed Spain in Dublin on the way to the 1990 finals, the match passed without incident, but Spain had already qualified. "We were less intense then," Zubizarreta, their goalkeeper, said. "This time we will be intense too."

Spain have made little secret that a draw is their main ambition, believing that they will then beat Denmark in Seville. If Spain do opt for a physical approach to counter Ireland's strengths it could prove to be an unpleasant afternoon, especially for Niall Quinn, whose height and strength will make him a target for the Spanish defenders. Much will depend on the referee.

"They say they want a good referee, but we need a good referee," Charlton said as the verbal sparring intensified. "All we ask is a referee who knows the job and applies the rules in the right way, and if we get that we'll be happy to take our chance."

Both managers refused to reveal their hand yesterday. But for Ireland, in the absence of Townsend, McGrath is expected to move back to the midfield slot he last occupied two years ago, leaving Moran to celebrate his 69th cap with the captaincy. "I'm happier playing centre-half, but I've no qualms about switching to midfield," McGrath said.

"After all I've played there so often in the past I know the job backwards." The only doubt is Aldridge, who will have a rest on his thigh injury this morning.



McGrath, the Aston Villa defender, who is expected to play in midfield for Ireland at Lansdowne Road today

Bingham is planning to help neighbours

NORTHERN Ireland may not be going to the World Cup finals next year, but they can, at least, make sure that their neighbours south of the border do. Billy Bingham, the Northern Ireland manager, said yesterday that he was confident his team can do the Republic of Ireland a favour in their group three qualifying game against Denmark in Copenhagen tonight.

"If Spain draw with the Republic in Dublin—a result which I think they are capable of achieving—and we take even a point from the Danes, it would send Jack Charlton's squad on their way to next summer's finals in the United States," Bingham said. Mind you, that is more easily said than done. Denmark, the

European champions, are clear favourites to win.

Bingham, who retires from the manager's job in December, is delaying the naming of his team until midday, but he is unlikely to experiment, therefore retaining the bulk of the side that defeated Latvia 2-0 in Belfast last month. The central defender and captain, Alan McDonald, recovered from an ankle injury, will return, and Keith Rowland, the West Ham United full back, a substitute in the last fixture, and also operate in a five-man midfield.

DENMARK: P Schmeichel (Manchester United), O Jensen (Aarhus), M Nielsen (Brøndby), J Nielsen (Silkeborg), J Jensen (Aarhus), K Villot (Brøndby), M Lauridsen (Aarhus), S Steen-Nielsen, J Veltrop (AC Milan), F Poulsen (Borussia Dortmund), F Pjeng (Borussia Dortmund).

Both managers refused to reveal their hand yesterday. But for Ireland, in the absence of Townsend, McGrath is expected to move back to the midfield slot he last occupied two years ago, leaving Moran to celebrate his 69th cap with the captaincy. "I'm happier playing centre-half, but I've no qualms about switching to midfield," McGrath said.

"After all I've played there so often in the past I know the job backwards." The only doubt is Aldridge, who will have a rest on his thigh injury this morning.

IRELAND (probable): P Bormer (Celtic), O Irwin (Manchester United), K Moran (Sheff Wed), A Kavanagh (Manchester City), J Friel (Manchester City), P Houghton (Preston Villa), R Kean (Manchester United), P McGrath (Aston Villa), S Staunton (Preston Villa), J Aldridge (Liverpool), N Quinn (Manchester City).

SPAIN (probable): A Zubizarreta (Barcelona), M A Nadal (Barcelona), A Ferrer (Barcelona), J Camacho (Málaga), R Alcaraz (Real Madrid), Tork (Villarreal), A Goicoechea (Barcelona), J Balboa (Barcelona), F Hierro (Real Madrid), L. Luis Enrique (Real Madrid), J Salinas (Barcelona), F Beldin (Italy).

Wales persevere with sweeper

By Keith Pike

WHILE England go in search of the draw they believe will take them to the World Cup finals, Wales tonight have their sights set higher. The same result against Cyprus in Cardiff would represent for them the point of no return.

The permutations in group four are seemingly endless, but Wales know nothing less than victory will keep the prize within their grasp.

A crowd of around 25,000 at the National Stadium where Lennox Lewis battered Frank Bruno into submission ten days ago, will demand an equally punishing night for the underdogs.

There is, of course, no reason why Wales, having won 10 in 10 in last October, should not triumph. Equally there was no expectation that their teams of 1982 and 1986, less talented though they were, would forfeit qualification by dropping points to Iceland but squander them they did.

Those kind of results are a

thing of the past, Terry Yorath, the Wales manager, said yesterday.

"The days of losing to the likes of Cyprus have gone," Yorath declared. It was a bold statement and it may yet come back to haunt him but it reflected the relaxed yet bullish mood he and his players exuded.

Even though goal difference could yet be decisive in what Yorath believes to be the toughest European qualifying group, he said he would not abandon the sweeper system and go for all-out attack. "The players are comfortable with it and it could blow up in our

faces if we changed now," he said.

Yorath would not reveal the team he expects to win and set up a possible winner-takes-all return against Romania next month, but in 39 international matches to date, he has named an unchanged team on only four occasions.

At least one alteration can be expected tonight. After playing in nine successive games, it was Gary Speed's talents that were sacrificed in Wales's last three matches to accommodate the precocious Giggs. Against Cyprus, Yorath may feel tempted to play all his trump cards and Speed is thought likely to replace Bowen on the left side of a fluid five-man defence.

Cyprus hope to frustrate Wales and then feed off any indiscipline defending through Andreas Sotiropoulos, who has scored four of their eight goals in the qualifying competition. But they fear Rush, Hughes—who scored in Limassol—and Saunders

as potential match-winners. Most of all they fear Giggs.

Tonight, instead of hugging the touchline, he may be given the freedom to go where his instincts and pace take him.

In a Wales team worth potentially up to £30 million, Giggs remains the prized asset. How fitting, then, that Yorath should yesterday single out Mark Aizlewood as one of the most important members of his team.

Available on a free transfer from Bristol City, and having played one reserve game in a month, Aizlewood, 34, will be deployed at sweeper with no qualms. "If he does not get a club this week, he could find himself playing a World Cup tie and then being on the dole two days later," Yorath said. "The same could happen to me as well, though."

Wales (1-4-2-2, probable): N Southall (Swansea), M Aizlewood (Bristol City), D Phillips (Newcastle Forest), E Young (Crystal Palace), K Symons (Preston), G Speed (Aston Villa), R Gigg (Manchester United), S Hughes (Manchester United), I Rush (Liverpool), D Saunders (Aston Villa).

Joining Europe's elite

FROM NICHOLAS GEORGE IN STOCKHOLM

THEY may not mark a high point in football history but with only a few hundred full-time professional players among them, three neighbouring Scandinavian countries will probably fill places at next year's World Cup finals in the United States.

Denmark, Sweden and Norway all sit in qualifying positions in their groups and if results are favourable tonight, could be booking their flights this weekend.

In the last decade, Scandinavian football has joined Europe's top rank. Denmark are European champions, a competition in which Sweden, the hosts, reached the semi-finals. Norway are three points clear at the top of their World Cup group, having beaten England and the Dutch.

Three nations with a combined population of around 17 million and almost entirely semi-professional league structures have managed to develop and sustain national

teams larger European countries are struggling to match.

Most depressing for England is that in the cases of Norway and Sweden, their success is based on robust, pressure football, yet somehow they now play better than English teams and, in the case of Sweden, have combined it with increasing levels of skill.

Norway's success has perhaps been the most surprising, but its roots can be traced back several years through successful junior and under-21 teams.

"We are very much English inspired in Norway," Egil Olsen, the Norway manager, said. "We play a flat back four and quick, penetrative football."

Penetrative is one way of describing it. Some Swedes call it kick and run and even Norwegian journalists refer to it as the "Wimbleton style".

But the critics will remain quiet while the national team continues to perform so effectively. Swedish football also

has strong Anglo traditions. In the Seventies and Eighties, English trainers, notably Bob Houghton and Roy Hodgson, brought the 4-4-2 formation and high-pressure football to the Swedish league.

Now, however, Sweden has a set of players skilful enough to move on. Among them, the midfield player, Thern, at Napoli, Brolin at Parma, and in Dahlin, of Borussia Mönchengladbach, a striker who can unnerve international defences.

Danish traditions are slightly different. The "glamour team" of the 1986 World Cup finals is still regarded by many as greater than the present European champions.

But as Rasmus Beck, sports editor of the leading Danish daily paper, *Politiken*, explains: "With the glamour football it was OK to lose as long as they played entertaining football."

Now the Danish team realise they have to play winning football.

GROUP FOUR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	8	7	0	1	15	3	14
Romania	8	5	2	1	18	9	11
RCS	8	3	4	1	18	9	10
Wales	8	4	2	2	16	10	10
Cyprus	8	0	0	8	5	13	0
Faroe Is	8	0	0	8	1	38	0

FIXTURES: Today: Romania v Belgium, Wales v Cyprus, Oct 27: Representation of Cyprus and Slovakia (RCS) v Cyprus, Nov 17: Wales v Romania, Belgium v RCS.

GROUP ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	3	3	0	0	8	13	9
Italy	3	2	1	0	8	12	7
Portugal	3	2	1	0	4	10	7
Scotland	3	1	2	0	11	10	5
Malta	3	1	1	1	3	21	3
Estonia	3	0	1	2	1	20	1

FIXTURES: Today: Portugal v Switzerland, Scotland v Norway, Nov 10: Portugal v Estonia, Nov 17: Italy v Portugal, Malta v Scotland, Switzerland v Estonia.

OUTRUN THE OPPOSITION



WorldCup USA 94

مكة من الاحل

Dwyer prepared for French resistance

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

BOB Dwyer's Australians arrived in Paris yesterday determined to restore their reputations as the best rugby union side in the world. But Dwyer himself warned they faced a "huge challenge" to score their first international series win on French soil.

The Australian coach is hoping to make it third time lucky after working on tours of France in 1983 and 1989. "Australia, New Zealand and France are at the top of world rugby and it's hard to distinguish who is the best — often it depends who has home advantage," Dwyer said.

"France have definitely emerged as a major team on the up. It's a huge challenge but we're here to win — the critics will eat us alive if we don't have a good series."

Dwyer knows the tour is too close to call, with both sides — Australia, the world champions, and France, the five nations' holders — boasting recent series wins against the Springboks.

He was hugely impressed with the French pack in South Africa. "Don't forget the All

Blacks have never won a series away against the Springboks," he said.

Australia, without such key players as Michael Lynagh, Willy O'Flaherty and John Eales, lost to New Zealand in the Bledisloe Cup but fought back to beat South Africa's tourists 2-1.

They then warmed up with low-key wins against the American Eagles and Canada before arriving in France.

Dwyer admits O'Flaherty and Eales will be missed in France, but Lynagh's return from a stomach operation is a huge boost, and the props, Phil Kearns and Dan Crowther, are also recovered from injury.

"It couldn't be harder for us here," he added. "In New Zealand and Australia, touring sides often meet poor teams, but you don't get that here. They're all good and determined to beat the common enemy."

Dwyer's personal record during two French tours stands at a draw and a defeat in 1983, followed by a victory and a defeat in 1989, and he

sees this tour as a perfect opportunity to put that right as Australia try to get as a team in what will be their final overseas tour before the 1995 World Cup.

They passed their first test here yesterday, dodging a French railway drivers' strike by crossing Paris by coach, together with a police motorbike escort, after a 19-hour flight from Toronto.

They then transferred to a plane heading for Dax in France's southern rugby heartland, where they open the tour by taking on an Aquitaine regional selection, led by the international lock, Guy Accoceberry, on Saturday. Dwyer plans to name his opening line-up today and expects his entire squad to be fit for selection, with Tony Daly (ankle) and Barry Lea (hamstring) expected to be fit in time.

France open their international season against Romania in Brive on Sunday before the matches against the Australians in Bordeaux on October 30 and Paris on November 6.

Hopleys divide loyalties

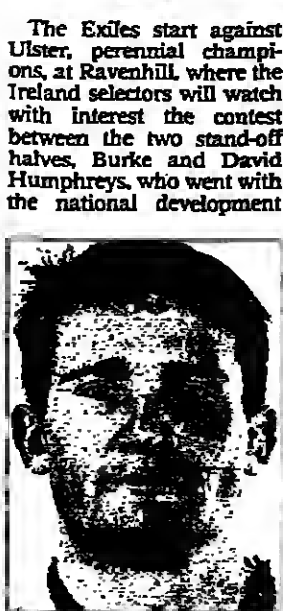
BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Hopley family will be a house divided if the ambitions of its two sons are fulfilled at international level this season. While Damian, the Wasps centre, seeks to advance beyond England A status, his older brother, Phil, will play for the Irish Exiles against Ulster on Saturday in the first round of the inter-provincial championship.

The elder Hopley started his first-class rugby career with Loodoo Irish — their mother is Irish — but subsequently moved to Wasps, where he and Damian have played in tandem this season at wing and centre.

Indeed, Phil Hopley's long-legged style, which drew so much attention when a young and inexperienced Wasps VII won the Middlesex sevens last season, has caused problems to several first-division defences.

His light has been kept under a bushel partly because of his versatility — he can play centre or wing or, as he showed late in the game against Bath last Saturday, full back — and he can also kick goals, although Paul Burke is first choice in that department.



Hopley: plays for Exiles

The Exiles start against Ulster, perennial champions, at Ravenhill, where the Ireland selectors will watch with interest the contest between the two stand-off halves, Burke and David Humphreys, who went with the national development after the match against France and he has yet to find a place in the Leicester first team this season.

Ulster include Phil Johns, the Ireland lock, who is in fine form for Dungannon and who is due to join Phil Hopley in a Medical Barbarians XV to play Public School Wanderers at Honor Oak on Sunday. The match is the centrepiece of a day of celebration of Guy's Hospital's 150th anniversary and 11 internationals turn out for PSW, while the medical invitation team includes Jonathan Webb, the England full back last season.

Officials of the Irish Rugby Football Union are to study a video of the match earlier this month between Young Munster, the Irish champions, and St Mary's College after reports that Peter Clohessy, the international prop who plays for Young Munster, was involved in a raking incident.

IRISH EXILES (v Ulster): J. Sapples (London Irish, captain); P. Hopley (Wasps); K. Dine (Moorpark); O. Dooley (London Irish); S. George (London Irish); P. Burke (London Irish); R. Saunders (London Irish); N. Donovan (London Irish); M. Kearns (Glasgow Hibernians); G. Hain (London Irish); O. Clancy (Ormeau); M. Keenan (London Irish); J. Eweridge (Blackrock College); O. Kelly (Manchester); A. Vining (London Irish).

Becker swift to gain revenge

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

BORIS Becker effortlessly avenged his first-round defeat by Neil Borwick at the Australian indoor tennis tournament when he beat the Australian 6-2, 6-2 in the second round of the Tokyo indoor tournament yesterday. However, Jaime Yzaga, of Peru, who was the surprise winner of the tournament in Sydney, was beaten by Christo van Rensburg, of South Africa, 7-5, 7-6.

Becker, the No 2 seed, who has won only two tournaments this season, showed no signs of the illness which upset his performance in Sydney. He will now play either Mikael Pernfors, of Sweden, the No 16 seed, or Patrick McEnroe, of the United States, in the third round.

S Stefan Edberg, the No 1 seed, seeking his first tournament win since April, needed 2hr 11min to beat Chuck Adams, of the United States, 7-6, 7-6.

Edberg, who won the Tokyo tournament in 1987 and 1991, had trouble with his service and hit ten double faults. Edberg will meet his compatriot, Jonas Svensson, who beat Ryusuo Tsujino, a Japanese qualifier, 7-6, 6-3. Ivan

Lendl, the defending champion, plays his first match today against Tommy Ho, of the United States.

Tom Gullikson is to be the new captain of the American Davis Cup team, the United States Tennis Association president, Howard Frazer announced yesterday. Gullikson, 42, replaces Tom Gorman, who led the United States to two Davis Cup victories and resigned last September.

Christine O'Reilly, one of a set of identical triplets from Ridgewood, New Jersey, who became professional players, has died from head injuries sustained in a car accident in California.

O'Reilly, 25, and her sisters, Patti and Terri, graduated from Ridgewood High School in 1986 and attended Duke University, where they played in the tennis team.

Last year, O'Reilly defeated the former Wimbledon finalist, Zina Garrison Jackson, in the Pathmark Classic in Mahwah. This year, she lost to Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere in the same event. The triplets had played in the tournament for the past eight years.

Lone point all Norway need

NORWAY will be without their goalkeeper, Eric Thorsvedt, for the World Cup group two qualifying match against Poland in Poznan today. Thorsvedt, of Tottenham Hotspur, is suspended after being sent off for fouling Kosecki in Oslo, where Norway beat Poland by the only goal last month. Grodaas, of Lillestrom, is the likely replacement.

Norway, the group leaders, need only a draw to qualify for the finals for the first time since 1938. Poland's slim chance of qualifying would be effectively over if England defeated Holland in Rotterdam.

Switzerland, group one leaders, will qualify for the World Cup finals for the first time since 1966 if they beat Portugal in Oporto today — but they will need to break down a formidable defensive barrier first.

Portugal, who need a victory to boost their chances of qualifying, will try to frustrate a team that is on a high after an unbeaten run of 14 matches but Roy Hodgson, Switzer-

land's English coach, is confident his team will reach next year's finals in the United States.

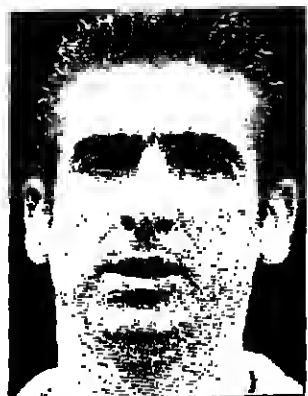
France look to their fearsome forwards to book their tickets for next year's finals when they take on struggling Israel in a group six qualifier at Parc des Princes. Cantona has scored five goals and Papin four in the qualifiers so far as the French have moved to within two points of a berth in the finals. France are unbeaten for more than a year.

The Zimbabwe Football Association (Zifa) has dismissed the national coach, Reinhard Fabisch, after the team's 3-1 defeat by Cameroon in the decisive World Cup qualifier on Sunday.

The Herald newspaper quoted the Zifa chief, Leo Mugabe, as saying Fabisch, brought to Zimbabwe two years ago from Germany, would revert to his previous post of technical adviser.

Business came to a standstill in Lusaka yesterday when hundreds of protesters thronged the streets demanding a replay of Zambia's World Cup match with Morocco. Morocco won 1-0 on Sunday to prevent Zambia from reaching the World Cup finals. The Football Association of Zambia has lodged an official protest with Fifa over the referee's handling of the match.

Diego Maradona has been included in the Argentina squad for the World Cup play-off against Australia on October 31 and will travel to Sydney with the rest of the team on Monday. Alfio Basile, the Argentina coach, has been impressed with Maradona's form and fitness.



Cantona: sharpshooter

Diplomat accepts Real task

INOCENCIO Arias Llamas, a 53-year-old diplomat who could have been preparing for life as Spain's ambassador to Portugal or Italy, has accepted the task of restoring the good health, both footballing and financial, of Real Madrid.

Ramon Mendoza, the Real president, has given Arias, who has been appointed director-general of the club, wide-ranging authority to get the team back on a winning track and erase a debt of 8 billion pesetas (about £4 million). Real have made a poor start to the season, with only two wins in six games, and there have been calls for Mendoza and the coach, Benito Floro, to be dismissed.

"I have always been in love with football and with Real Madrid," Arias said. "Diplomacy is serious and important, but I don't think sports should be considered a frivolous matter. It's entertaining and brings excitement to millions."

Arias begins work at the club tomorrow. His arrival will herald the departure of Ramon Martinez, who is head of operations on the playing side. Real, Spanish league champions 25 times and European Cup winners on six occasions, have finished second in the last three years and have not fared well in Europe recently.

Derby sign Durban as scout

DERBY County yesterday appointed Alan Durban, the former Wales midfield player, as their chief scout.

Durban, who earned 27 Welsh caps, returns to the club where he made 403 appearances between 1963 and 1973, helping them to win first and second division championships. He managed Shrewsbury Town, Stoke City, Sunderland and Cardiff City before retiring from football in 1986 to become manager of the Telford Tennis Centre.

Neil Ruddock and Pat Van den Hauwe face trial-by-vidiotape at a double disciplinary date later this month. Ruddock, the Liverpool centre back, has his hearing at noon at Villa Park on October 28 and an hour earlier, the Millwall full back. Van den Hauwe, also charged with misconduct, will be heard at FA headquarters in London.

Ruddock is in trouble after an incident involving the Blackburn striker, Mike Newell, during a match at Anfield last month. Van den Hauwe was caught on television elbowing Shaun Newton, of Charlton, in the first minute of his first appearance for Millwall.

Tranmere's record signing, Tommy Coyne, looks set to return north after a Hearts bid of around £200,000. The striker, 30, wants to return to Scotland following the death of his wife.

HOLLAND SIGN NEW BOOT DEAL



DEFINITELY A DRY BLACKTHORN DAY.

All-rounder in pursuit of doubles title gripped by ambition

Man for all seasons courts only success



Sally Jones meets James Male, arguably the most complete sportsman of his generation

Next month James Male, perhaps the greatest sporting all-rounder of his generation, and his partner, John Prens, will challenge for the Lacoste world rackets doubles championship in New York and London amid a prize-fest atmosphere that belies the sport's minority status. The two men, both amateurs, will challenge the holders, Neil Smith and Shannon Hazell, the top professionals in the world.

Male, 29, has held the world singles title since 1988, defending it successfully in January against Smith in thrilling style after losing the first leg. He has also excelled at every other sport he has taken up. He is a single-figure handicap golfer, a county standard squash and hockey player, appearing alongside Sean Kerly in his Southgate days. He was a junior international at lawn tennis despite a bizarre, self-taught style that included a double-handed service and,

'Male's extraordinary style makes compulsive watching, the rackets equivalent of Andre Agassi on song'

only 18 months after taking up real tennis seriously, won the prestigious amateur championship, beating his Radley College contemporary and great rival, Julian Snow.

Smith and Hazell start as favourites for the rackets world doubles title. At 40, Prens, the former world champion and the game's major sponsor, is very much a veteran, but Male's brilliance under pressure makes him a uniquely formidable opponent and capable of turning a match round from a seemingly impossible position. To the crowds who pack every available inch of the steep gallery above the court and crane in droves as the hard white ball buzzes around the black walls, Male's extraordinary double-fisted style, is compulsive watching, the rackets equivalent of Andre Agassi on song and the source of countless 'First class Male' type headlines.

Brought up in Hertfordshire and encouraged by his father, David, a quantity surveyor, who himself won the public schools tennis championship in his teens, Male became the classic all-rounder at Radley. He played for the first team at rugby, cricket, squash, tennis and hockey, although it was rackets which ultimately captured his imagination.

"The thrill of hitting a ball so hard was amazing and terrifying — like playing

squash with a golf ball. Your opponent clouts it and suddenly the ball's back in your face. You've got to hit it or it'll take you out."

"When I was 17, our rackets master, Mick Dean, who was a huge influence on me, first took us along to Queen's Club to watch the second leg of the world championships in which John Prens beat Willie Surtees 4-0, despite losing the leg 4-2. It was such amazing rackets, incredibly fast and skilful, with the ball whizzing around at 150mph — it's the world's fastest ball game, after all — that I got pumped up with adrenalin and realised this was the game for me."

Although Male looks the typical upper-class amateur, with fringe pushed across his forehead and an irresistible manner, his obsession with winning and total commitment to his sport would make Jim Courier look a dilettante. As a teenager, this surfaced in a series of tennis racket-throwing tantrums, prompting a Slazenger representative to threaten to take away his supply of free rackets.

"I then decided I'd have to channel that aggression into winning," he explained, "rather than letting the opponent see how much he'd rattled me. I've always been willing to work hard at my sport, too. Lots of naturally talented players doss about and never fulfil their potential, but to me it's criminal to be given a gift and not make use of it."

Even as a schoolboy, he was clear-cut in his ambition to be the best. Dean remembers one typical example: "James wrote to me during the summer holidays before he came into the sixth form and said, 'I think I've got a good chance of winning the Foster Cup [the public schools singles championship]. Would you be kind enough to give me some extra coaching and practice during the lunch hours?' I was incredibly impressed that he should be so focused in his aims and, of course, I played with him as much as possible. He went on to win the title for the next two years and never looked back."

Dean continued: "The main thing with James was to keep him playing purely on an instinctive level and stop him trying to think about the game, which would have inhibited his natural skill. He's not a great academic and if he'd tried to analyse what he was doing, he'd have lost that extraordinary flair and the ability to hit hardest and most accurately on the biggest points."

"One of his greatest gifts at any sport is sheer speed. On the real tennis court I've seen him dash into the corner to retrieve a deep ball then suddenly realise, at the last minute, that it was going to hit the edge of the buttress called the tambour and be deflected out into the middle of the court



Male's double-fisted style and speed around the rackets court make him a uniquely formidable opponent

instead. Most people couldn't have got within yards of it, but James would always rocket right across the court in pursuit and be there almost before the ball arrived, feet perfectly placed to hit an aggressive reply."

Male is equally willing to take risks in his business life and has just resigned from a job as an equity salesman for Warburg Securities, hoping to make his way in the competitive world of commentary or sports management.

"It may seem like madness with nothing definite to go to," he said, "but I'm pretty bullish about it. I've never wanted to do banking for the rest of my

life and now, while I've still got no dependants, seemed like the ideal time to make the change." Despite his good looks and relaxed charm, Male is still resolutely single, mainly because few of his long-suffering girlfriends can bear to play second fiddle to his sport for more than a few weeks at a time.

"I meet someone I like, and start courting for a couple of months, but then the sport starts to creep in more and more and they start saying, 'When am I going to see you?' and the whole thing crashes and burns. Most of them think I do it for fun. They can't understand my compulsion to

win and to be fully prepared for the next big challenge. I can just about accept losing if I've trained hard and lost to the better man on the day, but going down because I haven't put the work in is crucifying."

His training schedule includes four nights a week on the rackets court, two nights of squash, plus several sessions of weights and running as well as a special exercise regime designed by Alan Watson at the Bio-Mechanical Analysis centre in Hammesmuth. After exhaustive testing at the centre, which also helps and monitors the England rugby side and athletes like Daley Thompson, Male was found to

have the lowest pulse rate — 37 beats a minute — recorded there and to be fitter than the most dedicated rugby international.

After the world doubles, he plans to travel for a few months and attempt to fulfil one of his long-time dreams, playing major league baseball in the United States, possibly with the Atlanta Braves, who are hoping to reach a third successive World Series and have expressed an interest in trying him out as a batter.

"I'd have to build myself up to play at that level, because of the weight of the baseball bat," he said, "but I know my timing and reflexes are up to it."

SPORT IN BRIEF

Jackson gets award ahead of Christie

COLIN Jackson yesterday won his last big race of the year, a close-fought contest with his friend and business partner, Linford Christie, for the title of Britain's male athlete of the year. The Welsh sprint hurdles master has been awarded British athletics' highest honour for an all-conquering season that culminated in his world record run for the gold medal at the world championships in Stuttgart.

A fellow world record-breaker, Sally Gunnell, was the unanimous choice of the British Athletics Writers' Association as women's winner. She was voted European woman athlete of the year last week. Jackson's triumph came in one of the closest polls for many years with most voters finding it difficult to separate him from Christie, the winner last year, who only just missed out on a world record himself with his 100 metres triumph in Stuttgart.

"I wouldn't have minded if it had been a draw between Linford and myself," Jackson said. "But I'm delighted because it caps a great year for me." Last week, Christie was voted leading athlete by the European Athletic Association just ahead of Jackson.

Morris told to stay

CRICKET: Derbyshire have turned down John Morris's request to be released from his contract. After a meeting of the club's cricket committee, the secretary, Reg Taylor, confirmed that it had been decided that the 29-year-old would be released only if a suitable replacement were found. Morris could be forced to see out the remaining year on his agreement, which is likely to upset both Somerset and Warwickshire, who were interested in signing the former England batsman.

Durham have appointed Phil Bainbridge, 35, as captain in succession to David Graveney, and Alan Wright as chief executive. Wright replaces Mike Gear, who was dismissed in February, two years into his four-year contract.

Champion withdraws

BOXING: Eamonn Loughran will face Manning Galloway, of the United States, in Belfast on Saturday for the World Boxing Organisation welterweight title after the champion, Gert Bo Jacobsen, pulled out of the bout yesterday because of flu. Galloway, who was on the undercard at the weekend, held the title until February, when Jacobsen beat him. Galloway is regarded by many as a stiffer test for Loughran, the former Commonwealth champion, than the Dane. Mogens Palle, Jacobsen's promoter, said his boxer had been ill for more than a week and that training efforts had been in vain. Palle added that the 32-year-old would not retire.

Dykstra lifts Phillies

BASEBALL: The Philadelphia Phillies beat the Atlanta Braves 4-3 in ten innings in Atlanta on Monday to go ahead three games to two in the best-of-seven National League play-off. Lenny Dykstra lifted the Phillies to within one win of a place in the World Series by hitting a one-out home run off Mark Wohlers in the extra inning. Atlanta had rallied for three runs in the ninth. Philadelphia have two chances, both at home and starting tonight, to win one game to reach the World Series. Atlanta must win the last two games away, a feat they accomplished two years ago.

Kelly in form for Bills

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Jim Kelly threw three first-half touchdown passes to lead the Buffalo Bills past the Houston Oilers 35-7 on Monday. The Oilers committed seven turnovers. The game was a rematch of a play-off meeting last season that produced the biggest comeback in National Football League history — Buffalo's rally from a 32-point, second-half deficit to a 41-38 win in overtime. Dan Marino, of the Miami Dolphins, underwent surgery for a ruptured Achilles tendon and will be out for the season. He was hurt on Sunday during a 24-14 win in Cleveland.

Jenkins named best

RUGBY UNION: Gareth Jenkins, the Wales assistant coach, has been named best male team coach after guiding Llanelli to the Heineken League and Swalec Cup double and victory over the Australians last season. The individual male coach award went to Adrian Thomas for his work with the Swansea Harriers sprint/hurdles squad and the British senior 400m team. The trampolining coach, Peter Davies, received a special award. The canoeing coach, Lara Tipper, took the best individual female coach trophy and netball's Wendy Lewis took the team award.

Clark may miss finals

BADMINTON: The car crash that last week left Gill Clark, right, with a whip-lash neck injury now looks likely to cost her a place in the World Grand Prix finals in Kuala Lumpur in December, following her withdrawal from this week's Danish Open in Aarhus. England's best-known player, having missed last week's Dutch Open, has lost vital qualifying points in the women's doubles.



Cunico extends lead

MOTOR RALLYING: Franco Cunico, of Italy, the surprise leader at the end of the first leg of the San Remo rally, boosted his advantage over the world champion, Carlos Sainz, of Spain, to 16m 26sec after 16 special stages on the second day of the three-day event yesterday. Cunico, driving a Ford Escort Cosworth, won two of the four specials in the morning. Cunico has taken up the Ford banner after the pre-race favourite, François Delecour, of France, and his team-mate, Massimo Biasion, retired on Monday.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 48

PNIGEROPHOBIA

(a) A morbid dread of being smothered. "The NHS defended its policy on reducing the number of beds available to patients by claiming that it was a positive attempt to deal with the present glut of pnigerophobics."

RUPTUARY

(a) A pebeian or commoner. "I have very little time for Australian ruptuaries, snorted Elizabeth."

SENESECHAL

(c) A steward or major-domo of a medieval mansion or cathedral. An official in the household of a sovereign entrusted with the administration of justice and domestic arrangements. 1667, Milton: "Then marshald Feast Serv'd up in Hall with Sewers, and Seneschals." From the French *seneschal*.

MUMBLECRUST

(b) An old beggar, a toothless one. Figuratively: "And another thing — I'm fed up with having those mumblecrust relatives of yours around the place all hours."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... f6! and, surprisingly, Black wins a piece, e.g. 2 Bf4 e5! and now either 3 Bg3 Bb6 or 3 Be3 Ne3 4 Qe3 Bb6 with a disaster on the c1-h6 diagonal in both cases.

Sport awaits to hear place in new-style service

Sport on radio is safe, even if Radio 5 is not. The announcement that the 24-hour news service (motto "first and live", title unknown) will be set up together with, not at the expense of, sport will be greeted with relief by those who feared the BBC's talent for self-destruction might override the evidence of its own listening figures and the wishes of the sportsman. Indeed, the changes to the output, which will also see *Test Match Special* move to Radio 4 long wave, could mean an increase in the 2,350 hours already devoted to sport on Radio 5 this year.

There is sense to yesterday's decision, even for the uncommitted. Largely on the back of its unrivalled sports coverage, Radio 5 has increased its audience to a healthy 4.68 million, many of those attracted to radio for

Andrew Longmore hopes live coverage will not be undervalued in the radio shake-up

the first time by the live football commentaries. Surprising as it may seem, Wimbledon v QPR on a wet Monday night was not such an acquired taste and the fact that sport attracted a high proportion of young listeners — more than 500,000 children — proved to be its saviour during the great debate which prefaced the changes yesterday. As Liz Forgan, managing director of BBC Network Radio, indicated, sport is the best way to reach a new generation of listeners.

However, until the details of the new network have been worked out, in particular the balance between news and sport, the celebrations of the pro-sport lobby should be put on hold. The new control-

ler of the station will have a background in news rather than sport, which makes the claim of Mike Lewis, BBC Radio's head of sport, that sport would get equal billing with news a little optimistic. What, for instance, will happen to the hour and half-hourly bulletins during a 90-minute football commentary? Will the vital penalty take precedence over the scheduled news service or will players have to confine their moments of glory to the space in between? Will the news be delayed until half-time? What if the match goes to extra time? Yesterday, the BBC was honest enough to admit it did not really know.

Sport is not easily contained. Radio coverage re-

Faldo's timing looks perfect... And here is the 5 o'clock news



quires flexibility, time and the sensitivity of someone who enjoys and understands its rhythms. If civil war breaks out in the middle of the men's singles final at Wimbledon, the nation should perhaps be told about it, even if they are not

interested at the time. The beauty and strength of the present sports service on Radio 5 stems from its commitment and consistency. It exudes the feeling that sport matters, not just on the great days of the Ryder Cup, the Open golf, the British Grand Prix, Wimbledon, the Cup Final, the Lord's Test, but every day of the week.

Unlike television, radio cannot rely on the action replay or the edited highlight. Its essence is live coverage and if that means a certain amount of waffle and puff, so be it. The best bits are worth the wait.

That is not to inflate the importance of sport nor to imply that sport should necessarily be afforded the luxury of its own shared network — extraordinarily, there are those who find six consecutive nights of football commentary or a fortnight of



Merson the surprise selection as manager betrays nerves with outbursts

Taylor gambles with all-change England

FROM ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN ROTTERDAM

IF ENGLAND are to triumph here tonight, or even to achieve the draw that is the minimum they need to stay in contention for the World Cup finals, the players are going to have to show more fortitude, more self-control and more belief in their mission than their manager.

Graham Taylor's nerve frayed and snapped like a worn violin string yesterday, in front of the reporters and the television cameras of the 31 nations which will show this decisive match between Holland and England tonight, the manager announced five changes from the team which had so encouragingly beaten Poland barely a month ago. His new line-up contains only three of the players who drew 2-2 against Holland at Wembley in April.

The changes, three of which were forced on him, were not as worrying as the sad, emotive and bullying outbursts by which Taylor turned on a reporter who had dared to draw the conclusion that the thinking behind this team bore resemblance to that which took the field in last spring.

Taylor's purple rage betrayed him in front of the astonished foreign media. Moreover, having bluntly refused to discuss how his chosen 11 would line up, what

Temper is beginning to fray as England prepare for tonight's crucial World Cup match. Graham Taylor's selection shows disturbing signs of indecision

tactics or strategy he had in mind, he within five minutes revealed his hand to Dutch radio and television.

His refusal to explain where Paul Merson or David Platt might perform within the team had some apparent justification when the manager insisted: "We are past masters at helping other people. The Dutch are very tactically aware, so I would rather wait in terms of formations or tactics. I will insist that this squad, this team, is very adaptable — we consistently tell our English players that they can only play one way. I say they are better than that, they are adaptable, and why should we tell the Dutch which way they will perform?"

Then, cooling down, he was asked by Dutch radio to announce the line-up, and he did so, instantly revealing that Merson would play on the right wing, and Platt would play as a striker up front with Shearer. How very unfortunate. How wretched on a day when many had tried to hide any suspicions that things were not quite in control, that the England manager should betray himself temperamentally.

It had been coming, Taylor feels a man alone, he laments

the misfortune that he says has dogged this England campaign, one in which he tries to insist the team has performed creditably in seven out of eight matches.

Misfortune? Is it unfortunate or misguided that an England team squanders a 2-0 lead against the Dutch at Wembley? Is it unfortunate

GROUP TWO

	P	W	O	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	6	3	2	0	21	3	14
Holland	6	3	3	1	24	6	11
England	6	4	3	1	18	6	11
Poland	7	3	2	2	8	7	8
Turkey	6	1	1	4	7	17	3
San Marino	9	0	1	8	1	38	1

FIGURES: Today: Holland v England, Poland v Norway. Oct 27: Turkey v Poland. Nov 10: Turkey v Norway. Nov 17: San Marino v England; Poland v Holland.

that Paul Gascoigne, the one truly creative spark, is missing at the moment he is needed most?

Gascoigne had let the team down, England tolerated, indeed encouraged, the boyishness of his inspiration but that cancelled itself out, a creator destroying himself through the sheer recklessness of the fouls that brought him cautions.

However, to arrive here in

defeatist frame of mind would be suicidal. The Dutch remain more vulnerable in defence than in any other area of their team. They, too, have had an outpouring of self-doubt, though in recent days their coach, Dick Advocaat, known as the "little general" has turned scepticism to optimism by uniting the team in orange against the sniping of the press. Yes, Holland has that as well.

It has come to the point where Johan Cruyff, the mentor to many of the Holland players and the man who will, should they succeed, take over from Advocaat and lead this team to the World Cup, is writing a column this morning, chastising the critics.

"Don't forget," Cruyff tells *De Telegraaf*, "we have the same mentality as England when we are under pressure. We are not like Italians. We know how to peak. Whoever stays true to his style for as long as possible, whoever remains calm, will win this decisive match in Rotterdam."

There are several crucial areas of the contest. First, the way the countries are led in the field. The England captain, thank goodness, is once again David Platt. The only member of the England team who plays his club football abroad, he is a persuader, an inspiration, rather than the enforcer that Stuart Pearce would have been. When, finally, Pearce succumbed to the inevitability that his damaged hamstring was too great a gamble for this match, Platt automatically resumed the commanding role. He will, however, play up front behind Shearer, where he is less effective, less of a surprise than when he spreads his industry and his influence from midfield.

The contest between Shearer and the muscular John De Wolf will be unremitting, examining heart, nerve and sinew. Shearer has indomitably proven himself ready and willing just five matches into his comeback after cruciate ligament surgery in the right knee; De Wolf, a man of piratical appearance, will bruise and bound him.

Behind them, one wonders if Merson, whom Taylor had said last month he regarded as a forward, has enough desire,

finess and form to do the running on the right that is required. And if he can support the front runners, if he and Paul Ince can infiltrate, they are England's best hope to prevent Ronald Koeman from advancing to turn his role of libero into that of orchestrator.

Jan Wouters, who like half the Dutch team plays his football overseas, leads the side in midfield. He is bandy-legged, 33, tough and astute.

Gascoigne can verify that there is little short of a mugging to which Wouters will not stoop in pursuit of victory.

In attack, where we must expect to see plenty of Holland, Ronald De Boer, the twin of Frank, will penetrate down the middle. Marc Overmars and Bryan Roy will thrust down the flanks.

It is as easy to stop Overmars as to put a boot on a lizard, and that is the task for

both Tony Dorigo and the back-peddalling Lee Sharpe. Roy, an instinctive and unpredictable winger, is the reason Taylor, with the best of his changes, has opted for the experience of Paul Parker, of Manchester United.

All this leaves one potential critical area. Advocaat might almost be said to have chosen 12 men to start this match. He has been suggesting, with almost every interview, that England should play Sheffield

Wednesday's Carlton Palmer. Taylor has absorbed the message. Palmer plays, and surely part of his duty will be to stop Dennis Bergkamp from ghosting into striking positions from midfield.

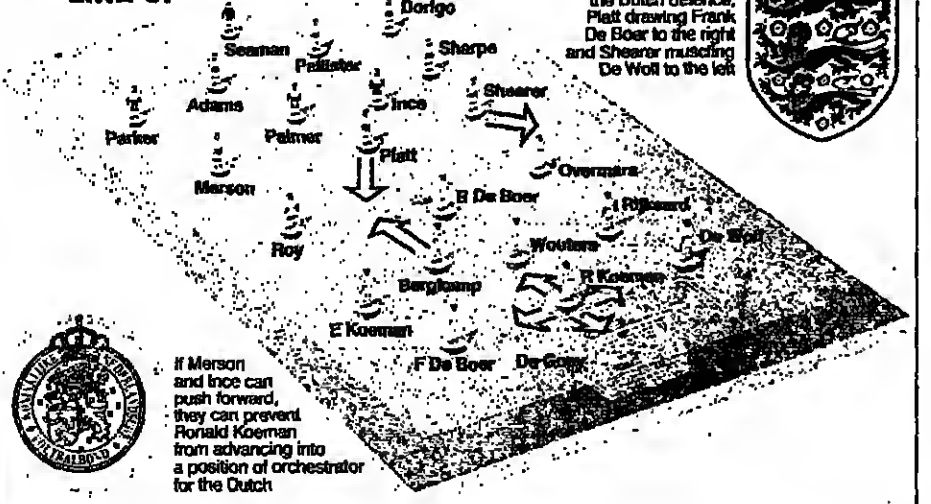
The Dutch may have tempted England into an injudicious selection. Tonight will be the judge.

Dutch crackdown, page 2
Irish near finals, page 44
Wales's task, page 44



Taylor shows the strain yesterday as he announces the England team to play Holland in Rotterdam

HOW THE TEAMS LINE UP



Lottery selection exposes manager's failings

FROM DAVID MILLER
IN ROTTERDAM

GRAHAM Taylor does not matter, so to speak. England's World Cup team does. The relative importance of these respective issues, the manager and the team, tends to become confused and distorted. All that counts here tonight is that England win or draw.

England, without remotely being brilliant, boast enough sound players to have made certain one of the two group two qualifying places over the course of ten matches. The country can be proud of men of the quality of Ince, Platt, Palmer, Shearer, Wright and Merson. They need, however, to perform within a regular framework and system.

The manager's vacillation on every facet of selection and tactics has reduced rather than raised the probability of qualifying and he

seems, on the face of it, to have done so once more. Five changes, only three of them necessary, reflect Taylor's uncertainty.

If England can harvest a point, or better, against Holland, the achievement will owe more to the spontaneous abilities of the individual performers than to the manager's tactical foresight and random arrangement of the unexceptional talents available to him.

What is disturbing — should England win and Taylor continue until the conclusion of the finals — is his evident instability: not just in selection policy, but personal conduct. At yesterday's announcement of the team, Taylor deliberately became involved in a dispute with a journalist that, besides being undignified, exposed the equivocal element of his judgment. Attempting to make the journalist look foolish, Taylor appeared lightweight.

I do not wish to pre-judge the outcome tonight — it would be splendid were England to be in the United States next summer, a shameful reflection upon our football were they not — yet so many of Taylor's decisions and comments call into question his competence.

Jones, the right back in the victory over Poland in the last match, is voluntarily omitted. Parker recalled after a long interval. It would, Taylor says, have been asking a lot of Jones against Holland when playing only his third match. That much will have been evident even before the Poland match. Therefore, why did he not select Parker, who has 17 caps and was available, against Poland? Vacillation.

Wright, so successful in attack with Ferdinand (now injured) against Poland, is fit, Taylor said, but the place for him "is next to me" on the bench. On the bench! You do

not learn to play for England sitting on the touchline, never mind Wright's match-saving substitution against Poland in Chorow last summer. Either Wright is an England player or not. Vacillation.

Exactly the same argument applies to Merson, holder of 12 caps to Wright's 14. The question is not whether either is good enough, but in which of them Taylor believes. Vacillation.

An additional uncertainty rests upon the preference for Merson. The suspicion is that Merson will play wide on the right in midfield, with Platt pushed forward to create yet another new attacking partnership with Shearer. We know that Platt performs better striking from midfield. Vacillation.

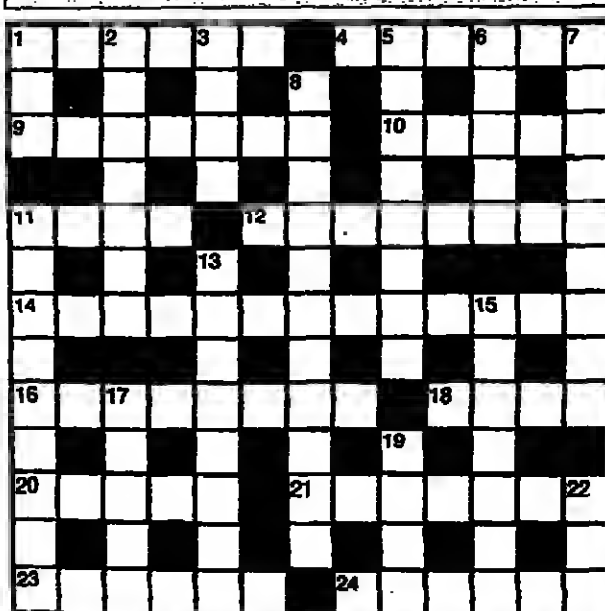
And how could Taylor possibly prefer the morose, inarticulate Pearce, barely good enough when fit to be an England full back, as the

regular captain rather than the coherent, bubbling and inspirational Platt, who has the job tonight? Lack of judgment.

Repeatedly, yesterday, Taylor made assertions that reveal he has misunderstood the role of international management: "It's an adaptable squad," he said, "and we have to be able to do that. They have more attributes than they are given credit for." Wrong. The critics acknowledge the adaptability, but that quality must come from within a stable and not a fluctuating selection.

"I'm selecting a side that I think will get a result against Holland," Taylor said. Wrong again. The international manager's job, I am convinced from long observation, is to select one team that will get a result against any team. Only a side changing as little as possible has that chance. I pray that England's lottery of a team defies these statistics.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3224



ACROSS

- 1 Freedom from danger (6)
- 4 Approach (4,2)
- 9 Insurance instalment (7)
- 10 Glowing coal (5)
- 11 Nap (4)
- 12 Organiser (8)
- 14 Homeless area (9,4)
- 16 Casual onlooker (8)
- 18 Healthy (4)
- 20 Computer information (5)
- 21 Harshly loud (7)
- 23 Exhilarated (6)
- 24 Man's hat (6)

DOWN

- 1 Drink (3)
- 2 Cold sore (7)
- 3 Branch offshoot (4)
- 5 Green gems (8)
- 6 Remove hidden rakes (5)
- 7 Representation (9)
- 8 Scandinavian buffet (11)
- 11 Mistletoe (9)
- 13 Someone not present (8)
- 15 Calmly emotionless (3,4)
- 17 Print browning (5)
- 19 Rough drilling edge (4)
- 22 Chance to speak (3)

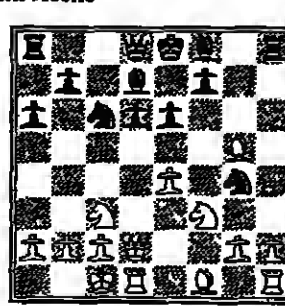
SOLUTIONS TO NO 3223

- ACROSS: 1 Malawi 4 Sikidy 7 Happy hour 9 Cloy 10 Maid 11 Goo 12 Trepan 14 Labour 16 Squall 18 Heehaw 20 Axe 21 Calm 23 Spin 24 Yard of ale 25 During 26 Rudder
- DOWN: 1 Muscar 2 Away 3 Impugn 4 School 5 Chum 6 Yonder 7 Hopefully 8 Ray of hope 13 All 15 Aye 16 Second 17 Lapid 18 Heffer 19 Winter 22 Mail 23 Sled

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is a variation from the game Short Kasparov, Times World Championship, game 2. Kasparov set Short a nasty trap in the opening of this game which Short saw through. Had he fallen for it, this would have been the critical position. Black to play. Watch out for part six of the history of the world championship in next Saturday's magazine, when we see Smyslov in action.



Solution, page 46
Championship Chess, page 10

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- PNIGEROPHOBIA
a. Dread of being smothered
b. Dislike of political correctness
c. Distrust of Nigerians
- RUPTUARY
a. A plebeian
b. A long burst of flatulence
c. A barny conservative

- SENESCHAL
a. Redolent
b. A homeopathic remedy
c. A steward
- MUMBLECRUST
a. A person with a cleft palate
b. An old beggar
c. Precursor of "humble pie"

Answers on page 46

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